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Fallout continues from remarks by State Department spokesman

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The fallout from Assistant Secretary of State James M. Rubin's remarks on the Kosovo crisis about "a bunch of Ukrainians ... running around with guns on their sides" continued this week as Ukrainian Americans made their feelings known to the U.S. Department of State and Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement.

Mr. Rubin, spokesman for the State Department, made his controversial statement on the May 2 broadcast of CNN's "Late Edition" when asked by correspondent Wolf Blitzer to comment on the composition of a proposed international force that would go to Kosovo to maintain the peace and protect returning refugees. (The Weekly's editorial last week reported and commented on the incident.)

In a May 3 letter to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America expressed its "dismay" about the "ill-considered characterization by Mr. Rubin of a Ukrainian role in a possible peacekeeping force in Kosovo" and said the comment "has clearly endangered U.S.-Ukrainian relations at a time when U.S. policy warrants the utmost respect for Ukraine's strategic role."

The UCCA underlined: "The Ukrainian American community is offended and shocked by the statement of Mr. Rubin, and believes his immediate removal is warranted. The UCCA is willing to meet with you, Madame Secretary, at your earliest convenience to discuss this troubling situation."

A statement issued on May 6 by Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted: "the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State allowed himself to make a derogatory statement regarding the possible role of Ukrainian peacekeepers in resolving the crisis centered on Kosovo. This statement could not but elicit concern, inasmuch as it cast a shadow on Ukrainian peacekeepers, and on the fruitful cooperation that has developed and is being realized today between the military of both Ukraine and the United States in the sphere of peacekeeping operations."

The ministry went on to speak of the important role played by Ukraine's peacekeepers and Ukraine's initiative in seeking to mediate the Kosovo crisis.

(The full texts of the both statements appear on page 3.)

Contacted by The Weekly, a State Department official said: "Assistant Secretary Rubin has expressed regret to both the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian American community for his remarks."

"He was trying to explain the rationale for an international security force with

NATO at its core that is adequately armed and will ensure the return of all Kosovar Albanian refugees to their homes," the official said.

According to the State Department, "Ukrainian soldiers are highly respected members of several peacekeeping missions, including in Bosnia, and they have conducted themselves with honor and skill. We look to Ukraine as an important partner in our efforts to restore peace in Kosovo and very much hope that Ukrainian troops will be a part of an eventual international peacekeeping force there."

On May 3 Mr. Rubin wrote a letter to the Ukrainian National Information Service, the Washington Office of the UCCA, and on the next day to Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko. In both letters he stated: "I would like to apologize for remarks ... that have been seen as reflecting negatively on Ukraine and Ukrainians."

"My reference to Ukrainian soldiers was not intended to belittle their capabilities and courage, but rather to explain the rationale for an international security force with NATO at its core," Mr. Rubin explained.

He asked that his "deep personal regret" be conveyed to the Ukrainian American community and to the government and people of Ukraine. (The text of Mr. Rubin's apology appears on page 3.)

Verkhovna Rada fails to force resignation of NBU chairman

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The National Bank of Ukraine withstood renewed efforts by Ukraine's leftist-led Verkhovna Rada on May 6-7 to charge it with financial misdealings in the handling of Ukraine's currency reserves and attempt to force the resignation of its chairman.

A Verkhovna Rada special investigative commission released findings on May 5 that accused the central bank of inappropriate investment practices and called for the removal of Chairman Viktor Yuschenko, but the Parliament failed to approve all three resolutions that were put forward a day later. Two of the resolutions called for the resignation of Mr. Yuschenko. The third, a condemnation of NBU activities and a directive that its employees come under government control, also fell short of a majority.

On May 7 another attempt to condemn the NBU's activities also did not receive sufficient support from the national deputies to pass.

The special investigative commission, headed by Socialist Party member Viktor Suslov, who was President Leonid Kuchma's minister of finance until he ran for a Parliament seat under the Socialist banner in the March 1998 elections, was formed to look into the investment prac-



National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yuschenko.

tices used by the National Bank of Ukraine in its handling of Ukraine's national currency reserve.

After the Verkhovna Rada's failure to force the resignation of the central bank chairman on May 6, Mr. Suslov told a press conference that he felt Mr. Yuschenko should still resign. "Even

(Continued on page 9)

Former New Yorker enlists friends for National Art Museum in

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A December snowstorm in Kyiv that piled Kyiv's roofs high with the white stuff, may prove to be the saving grace for the National Art Museum of Ukraine.

Almost a foot of snow pack on the museum's cover caused cracks and leakage that threatened to damage the 20,000 works of art displayed and stored in the building.

Even though emergency measures helped avert what could have become a calamity, the museum remained in poor shape with little financing available to remodel it and bring it up to Western standards. The government appropriated 30,000 hrv (approximately \$8,600) at the time — far from what the museum needs for a proper remodeling.

And with the landmark building scheduled to celebrate its 100th anniversary in the fall of this year, but with no government funding available for such a celebration, the mood in the museum was downright downbeat.

Thanks to Iryna Stecura, a Ukrainian

American from New York who has spent the last six years in Kyiv publishing a local entertainment guide, the mood has changed. An aficionado of the arts and a believer in the Western system of art patronage, Ms. Stecura and a group of concerned art enthusiasts have formed the "Friends of the National Art Museum of Ukraine."

She decided that the museum needed a benefactors' group after watching reports of the museum's snow problem on television and talking with the museum's director, whom she knew through her entertainment guide.

The Friends are believed to be the first advisory board for a public institution in Ukraine. In the West museums rely on such benefactors to help maintain and add to their collections, but in the world of the former Soviet Union the concept has not taken root, yet.

"We are beginning an alternative method of support for these public institutions that can no longer count on the government," said Ms. Stecura at a recent press conference.

She explained that the goal is to give the museum a badly needed facelift, to

make it more appealing to people and to prepare it for a proper centennial celebration.

It is estimated that some \$40 million will be needed to bring the building to the standards expected of a museum in the West.

Ms. Stecura conceded that is an unattainable goal for her organization, but feels that her organization can provide the start-up costs and impetus that will allow the project to move forward.

Eventually, as in the West, corporations must take responsibility for maintaining institutions of culture, explained Ms. Stecura. As a Friends press release states, "Ukraine may not be ready for large corporate support, as is the custom in the West, but it is time to start getting used to the idea that culture survives mostly on corporate support."

Ms. Stecura said the first thing that needs to be done is to make the entrance to the building attractive, so that people feel drawn to take a look at what's inside.

"It must attract people. This one is hidden behind trees and is unlit. In the

(Continued on page 9)

ANALYSIS

Has transition failed in the former USSR?

by Robert Lyle
RFE/RL Newswire

WASHINGTON – According to the World Bank, most of the countries of the former Soviet Union have seen nothing but decline and deterioration since the transition began 10 years ago.

World Bank Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist Joseph Stiglitz said the bank's annual World Development Report shows that despite significant gains in development around the world, the gap between rich and poor is widening and in many countries income distributions are worsening, increasing the social pain of economic failure.

Mr. Stiglitz told a Washington press conference in early May that "nowhere are these problems more evident than in the states of the former Soviet Union, where the numbers living in poverty increased from 14 million in 1989 to 147 million by the middle of the decade, a 10-fold increase."

The reason was not simply because Russia experienced a crisis last year, according to Mr. Stiglitz. "More broadly, a decade after the beginning of the transition to a market economy, most of the countries of the former Soviet Union have a lower per capita income, worse social conditions and higher levels of poverty than they did a decade ago."

So does this mean the transition to market economies has failed? The World Bank official admits that's a question his institution is now pondering.

"Most economists said the problem in the former Soviet Union was that they had central planning, no property rights and therefore inefficiencies and distorted prices," he argued. "We were going to change all that and it was supposed to release a burst of energy of entrepreneurship and output was supposed to increase. Instead, output has fallen markedly and poverty has increased markedly and I think the lesson we've learned is that market economies are far more complicated than textbook models often describe them, and that issues of governance, issues of legal infrastructures, issues of institutions are absolutely central," he noted.

The leader of the team that assembled the development report, World Bank Senior

Robert Lyle is a Washington-based RFE/RL correspondent.

Baptists detained as evangelistic meetings begin

Keston News Service

KESTON England – Three preachers of the Baptist Church in Ukraine have been detained and imprisoned for a 10-day period, the U.S.-based Russian Evangelistic Ministries reported.

"Following the rehabilitation of Christian prisoners in the late 1980s, this is the first instance of imprisonment solely for Christian activity in Ukraine," the mission added. The three, Pavel Sitkovsky, Nikolai Burlaka and Grigori Safronov, were arrested in the town of Kehychivka in eastern Ukraine's Kharkiv region on May 4 as an evangelistic tent mission was beginning.

All three were then reportedly sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment, presumably under the Ukrainian Administrative Code, although it remains unclear on what charge. The men's relatives have been denied access to them and are therefore unable to ascertain the reason for their arrest and imprisonment, or whether they have also been fined. However, it is known that the three have gone on hunger strike. The

Economist Eric Swanson, said one interesting anomaly in Russia is that private personal consumption has remained quite strong.

"What's really disappeared is investment and public consumption, government consumption," he said. "I guess if you're not collecting taxes, it keeps down your public consumption as well. Essentially we see an economy that's in chaos right now, and it's very hard to measure what's going on there."

Mr. Stiglitz said another strange occurrence in Russia is that the inequality of incomes has increased while economic growth has decreased. "In a sense, the economies in transition have repealed a standard law on economics, which says there is a trade-off between inequality and growth. What they showed is that you have negative growth and increasing inequality, so they've gotten the worst of both worlds. And that is one of the things we'll have to ponder as we go forward."

The bank's report warns that if present trends persist, there is a danger that the poor may become a permanent underclass far less able to respond to opportunities when things do turn around.

People are obviously feeling the pressure, too, said the bank, noting that stress reveals itself in declining life expectancy and sharply worsening adult mortality. It noted that the probability of a 15-year-old Ukrainian male surviving until his 60th birthday is a mere 65 percent, down from 72 percent in 1980.

The bank's report shows that while the former Soviet countries have been sinking for a decade, another former Communist giant, China, is moving strongly ahead in a transition that is working. "One of the remarkable contrasts is the success of [China's] transition as measured by most indicators including increases in GDP, living standards and reductions in poverty, Mr. Stiglitz noted. "The contrast between that and what has happened in the former Soviet Union [is] the result of quite different economic policies being pursued."

The key to economic success, according to Mr. Stiglitz, is adopting the reforms and policies necessary for a functioning market-based economy, including strong social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable. In the end, he said, it is not international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF that will save these countries but their own determination.

authorities are reportedly waiting for an Orthodox priest to speak with the prisoners.

Two of the three are ministers and one is a layman; all belong to Baptist Churches that rejected state registration during the Soviet period. Mr. Sitkovsky is pastor of the church in Krasnohrad, while Mr. Burlaka is pastor in Merefa, both in the Kharkiv region of eastern Ukraine. Mr. Safronov is a lay preacher.

These arrests are the first that the Baptists have suffered in Ukraine since the end of the persecution of congregations belonging to the unregistered Council of Churches during the tenure of Mikhail Gorbachev. Baptists in Ukraine are reported to be concerned that this might be a response to the start of the evangelistic campaign, which begins in tent missions in the spring as warmer weather arrives. "Over all, there have been no problems in the area," Russian Evangelistic Ministries told Keston. "What troubles evangelists is that this was done at the beginning of the evangelistic season."

NEWSBRIEFS

Election campaign officially under way

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on April 30 officially launched the campaign for the presidency. The nomination of candidates by political parties is expected to begin May 14, reported CEC Chair Mykhailo Riabets. He added that the election campaign could cost the government over 140 million hrv, which is nearly twice initial estimates. The first round of voting is scheduled for October 31. (Eastern Economist)

GUAM is now GUUAM

WASHINGTON – During the 50th anniversary commemorations of NATO held in Washington on April 23-25, representatives of five former Soviet republics met and announced the expansion of a regional bloc up until then known as GUAM: Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. A fifth member, Uzbekistan, has now joined the bloc, making its acronym GUUAM. The New York Times reported that the bloc is indicative of "their growing distance from Moscow, another rebuke for the world's largest ex-superpower." GUUAM is bound by common economic interests and a decidedly pro-NATO tilt. (The New York Times)

President decrees Mother's Day

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on May 10 issued a decree designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day from now on. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma reaffirms ties with Russia

SEVASTOPOL – "There is not and will never be any severance with Russia, which is a traditional partner of Ukraine," President Leonid Kuchma said in Sevastopol on May 6 at a ceremony dedicated to Victory Day and the 55th anniversary of Sevastopol's liberation from the Nazis, UNIAN reported. Russian Defense

Minister Igor Sergeiev delivered Russian President Boris Yeltsin's message to the people of Sevastopol, describing the city as a bonding link between Ukraine and Russia. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Veterans protest on Victory Day

KYIV – Veterans and Communist hardliners across Ukraine marked the 54th anniversary on May 9 of Nazi Germany's defeat with parades and protest marches, the Associated Press and DPA news agencies reported. Some 5,000 people took part in a demonstration in Kyiv, carrying old Red Army banners and red flags of the former Soviet Union. The demonstrators denounced NATO for its strikes in Yugoslavia and protested the policies of President Leonid Kuchma's government. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Rada overrides veto on veterans' benefits

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 11 times on May 5 to override President Leonid Kuchma's veto of a bill providing for special payments to World War II veterans, the Associated Press reported. The Parliament finally voted 303-11 to approve annual payments to veterans ranging from 41 to 162 hrv (\$12-\$41 U.S.), in addition to the veterans' current pensions. Mr. Kuchma had vetoed the bill in December, arguing that the budget does not include the 340 million hrv needed to cover the additional payments. Communist national deputies also sought to override the president's veto on increasing the monthly minimum pension from 16.6 hrv to 55 hrv. After failing to do this, the Parliament re-approved its initial bill. In order to block the pension increase President Kuchma will have to impose a new veto. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Greens out to block new reactors

KYIV – The Ukrainian environmental

(Continued on page 16)

Ukraine extends landmine export moratorium

OTTAWA – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on March 22 adopted Resolution No. 426, whereby the moratorium on export by Ukraine of anti-personnel landmines (APMs) of all types is extended for another four years.

News of the resolution was released by Ukraine's Embassy in Canada on April 29.

Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 686 of August 27, 1995, had introduced a four-year national moratorium on APM export, which entered into force on

September 1 of that year.

Ukraine does not produce or export APMs. The latest decision by the Ukrainian government has once again confirmed the country's consistent policy towards the prohibition and destruction of these weapons.

Ukraine signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention, on February 24.

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)
Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj (Toronto)
Irene Jarosewich
Ika Koznarska Casanova

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Community reps meet with State Department to address human rights report's characterization

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Representatives of the Ukrainian American community met on April 21 with officials from the U.S. Department of State to discuss a controversial phrase in the State Department's Ukraine Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998. The meeting was the result of a recommendation by Steven Pifer, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, after strong objections were voiced at an earlier regular meeting between the community and the State Department.

The Ukraine Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998, released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the U.S. Department of State on February 26, 1999 (see: <http://www.state.gov/>), provides an analysis of human rights successes and shortcomings Ukraine is experiencing in its transition to the rule of law. Issued by the State Department, the country reports are the U.S. government's assessments of various governments' respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

"The reports can be very influential," explained Orest Deychakiwsky of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and are "often used as basis for rulings on asylum and refugee requests, and circulated to congressmen, senators, and other government agencies for use in their decision-making."

One sentence in Ukraine's country report makes a reference to "deep-seated societal anti-Semitism," without offering substantiating evidence. The Ukrainian American community representatives met with State Department officials to address the community's perspective that this phrase negatively characterizes all Ukrainians.

Marc Susser, head of the country reports team for the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, began the dialogue with the Ukrainian American community representatives with an overview of how the country reports are produced. Information is reported to the State Department from U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world. The gathering of data in a particular embassy is seen as crucial to the reports, since information is obtained from various government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the press, etc.

Once compiled, an embassy initiates the first draft of the report, which is then sent to the State Department for consensus. Speaking on the findings of the report, Wendy Silverman of the bureau stated that the country reports represent "general discrimination," whereby the reports clearly differentiate between governmental and societal actions. Ms. Silverman further commented that the report was not intended to characterize an opinion about all Ukrainians.

In turn, Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) representative Arthur Belendiuk, explained that the Soviet disinformation program of the Cold War promoted negative stereotypes of Ukrainians

in order to undermine their efforts in support of democracy and independence. "Such stereotypes," explained Mr. Belendiuk, "such as Ukrainians' purported intolerance towards other ethnic groups, have been totally discredited from the moment of Ukraine's independence." Later, Mr. Belendiuk commented that it is unfortunate the Ukrainian American community is still forced to clear up remnants of that disinformation that linger even today.

Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) Director Michael Sawkiw, Jr. raised an issue regarding the uniformity of the country reports. Having read both the Ukraine and Russia Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998, Mr. Sawkiw stated: "In reading both reports, it was evident that only in the summary of the Ukrainian report does it indicate 'societal anti-Semitism,' when it is clearly documented in press reports, such as in The New York Times, that abuses of this nature are occurring more frequently in Russia." The UNIS director further noted that discrimination against women and other religious and ethnic minorities were generally stated in both reports, therefore specific reference to 'anti-Semitism' in Ukraine was unnecessarily portrayed. The inconsistencies cast doubts on the methods of information gathering, editing and reporting.

The State Department officials thanked the community representatives for their opinions and comments and noted that representatives of the bureau have taken the Ukrainian American community's concerns into advisement and would be willing to meet with the community representatives in the future. Results of the meeting notwithstanding, it is evident that the entire community must remain vigilant against such negative stereotyping towards Ukrainians in the future, noted Mr. Sawkiw.

In addition to Ms. Silverman, and Mr. Susser, the State Department was represented by Eric Schultz, desk officer of western Slavic and Moldovan affairs, popularly known as the Ukraine Desk, who coordinated the meeting from the State Department; as well as several consultants who specifically worked on the Ukraine Country Report.

The Ukrainian American community representatives at the meeting were Mr. Belendiuk (Ukrainian American Bar Association); Dr. Zenia Chernyk and Bohdan Korzeniowski (Ukrainian Federation of America); Mr. Deychakiwsky (The Washington Group); Ihor Gawdiak (Ukrainian American Coordinating Council); Prof. Taras Hunczak (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America); Mr. Sawkiw (Ukrainian National Information Service); and Dr. Roman Goy (Ukrainian Medical Association of North America), who also coordinated the meeting from the Ukrainian American side.

Dr. Roman Goy contributed to this article.

FOR THE RECORD

UCCA letter to Secretary of State Albright

Following is the full text of the letter sent by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on May 3 to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright.

Dear Madame Secretary:

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) wishes to express its dismay at the comments of State Department spokesman James Rubin on a televised program on Sunday, May 2, 1999. Broadcast on "CNN: Late Edition," Mr. Rubin's response to a question posed by CNN correspondent Wolf Blitzer was slanderous and deeply insulting. The ill-considered characterization by Mr. Rubin of a Ukrainian role in a possible peacekeeping force in Kosovo has clearly endangered U.S.-Ukrainian relations at a time when U.S. policy warrants the utmost respect for Ukraine's strategic role.

Thus, on behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its member-organizations, we respectfully ask for the immediate dismissal of James Rubin as assistant secretary for public affairs for the State Department. Such gratuitous state-

ments by a representative of the U.S. Department of State are inexcusable, especially during this critical period of U.S. involvement in the Kosovo crisis. Ukraine's attempts to mediate and broker a peace settlement in the region signify a willingness to enhance the security of the European continent, and ultimately the U.S. and its allies. Unfortunately, Mr. Rubin underestimated the significance of the efforts of the Ukrainian government, as well as the strategic importance of its independence, thereby demonstrating his unfitness to carry out the sensitive duties extended to him.

The Ukrainian American community is offended and shocked by the statement of Mr. Rubin, and believes his immediate removal is warranted. The UCCA is willing to meet with you, Madame Secretary, at your earliest convenience to discuss this troubling situation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Askold S. Lozynskyj
President

Rubin's letter to ambassador of Ukraine

Following is the text of a letter sent by James P. Rubin, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, to Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko. The letter was dated May 4 and was nearly identical to one sent a day earlier to Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service. (The key difference between the texts was Mr. Rubin's concluding paragraph: in the letter to the embassy he asked that his "deep personal regret" be conveyed by Ambassador Buteiko to "your government and the people of Ukraine" and in the letter to UNIS by Mr. Sawkiw "to the Ukrainian American community.")

Dear Ambassador Buteiko:

I would like to apologize for remarks I made on Sunday, May 2, that have been seen as reflecting negatively on Ukraine and Ukrainians. My reference to Ukrainian soldiers was not intended to belittle their capabilities and courage, but rather to explain the rationale for an international security force

with NATO at its core.

Ukrainian soldiers are highly respected members of several peacekeeping missions, including in Bosnia, and they have conducted themselves with honor and skill. We look to Ukraine as an important partner in our efforts to restore peace in Kosovo. We have consulted frequently with senior Ukrainian officials and appreciate Ukraine's efforts to play a constructive role in resolving the crisis. We believe that the Kosovar Albanians will have the confidence to return to their homes only under the protection of an effective international peacekeeping force with NATO at its core. We very much hope that Ukrainian troops will be a part of such a force, and this would be a significant contribution to peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Please convey to your government and the people of Ukraine my deep personal regret for any unintentional offense I have caused.

Sincerely,
James P. Rubin

Statement by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Following is the full text of the statement issued on May 6 by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (The text was translated by The Ukrainian Weekly from the original Ukrainian.)

On May 2 the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State allowed himself to make a derogatory statement regarding the possible role of Ukrainian peacekeepers in resolving the crisis centered on Kosovo. This statement could not but elicit concern, inasmuch as it cast a shadow on Ukrainian peacekeepers, and on the fruitful cooperation that has developed and is being realized today between the military of both Ukraine and the United States in the sphere of peacekeeping operations.

Since the first years of its independence, Ukraine has played an active role in peacekeeping activities conducted under the aegis of the United Nations and other international organizations. During this time more than 8,000 military and civilian peacekeepers have joined in this honorable mission. Ukraine is one of the guarantors of a political resolution to the Transdniester problem (Moldova). And, wherever Ukrainian peacekeepers may be found – in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Croatia, Guatemala and other countries around the world – they fulfill the tasks assigned to them with dignity, and command the great trust and esteem of the local population. The unbiased and realistic position of Ukraine has gained respect and authority among various sides in regional conflicts.

On the third day after the beginning of air strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ukraine became the first among all the countries of the world to send a high-level delegation of mediators to seek a political-diplomatic solution to the conflict. The mediation initiative of the president of Ukraine found support and was highly valued in European capitals, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ukraine continues to take an active part in the political-diplomatic resolution of the Kosovo crisis. In the event that the U.N. Security Council adopts a decision to send peacekeepers to Kosovo, and in the event that authorities in Ukraine adopt an appropriate decision to that effect, our peacekeepers will be ready to participate in safeguarding the return of Kosovo refugees and resolving the situation in that region.

Calgary community erects monument to Great Famine

by Borys Sydoruk

CALGARY – This city's Ukrainian Canadian community on April 25 erected a black granite monument commemorating the genocidal famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933. Great Famine survivors Lida Popov and Ivan Chernenky unveiled the monument. Nine famine survivors from Calgary and Lethbridge, Alberta, were present for the unveiling.

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Lawrence Huculak of the Eparchy of Edmonton; Ukrainian Catholic priests, the Rev. Anton Tarasenko and the Rev. Rendy Yackimec from Calgary; and the Rev. Taras Krochak of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church conducted the dedication service in memory of the millions who perished in the Great Famine. Archbishop John Stinka of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church stated, "There are many pictures that remain forever unobliterated in the minds of the Ukrainian people. There is many a man still suffering from the taint of the evil thing experienced."

Deepak Obhrai, member of Parliament, Mark Hlady, member of the legislative assembly (MLA), Wayne Cao, MLA, and Alderman John Lord gave greetings.

Halya Wilson, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Calgary Branch, asked in her opening comments: "Have we not learned from history" and "Why do so few Canadians, among them Ukrainian Canadians, still not know of one of the greatest genocides of the 20th century – the famine of 1933?"

Borys Sydoruk, director of special projects, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, asked that the honor of the Pulitzer Prize be lifted from Walter Duranty who knowingly lied about the genocidal famine.

Mr. Sydoruk also called on Ottawa to establish an inclusive Genocide Museum in Ottawa, stating that all genocides of this century should be remembered, including the Great Famine.



Nathan Berko

Bishops and clergy officiate at the dedication of Calgary's monument commemorating the Great Famine.



Community members gather around the newly blessed monument.

World Bank consultant speaks on post-Soviet finance

by Janet Hunkel

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Speaking at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University's Seminar in Ukrainian Studies on April 19, Lucan Way, a consultant to The World Bank spoke about intergovernmental finance and how state action in post-Soviet Ukraine affects distribution of state aid.

Popular views about state power are that either it is a direct outgrowth of economic power – the so-called "oligarchs" – or of political connections and networks – the informal clans of closely knit political leaders. Mr. Way, however, stated that "in certain key areas, institutional rules and norms – rather than access to political and economic resources – define state action in Ukraine. The post-Soviet Ukrainian state is able to carry out important activities in ways that contradict the interests of otherwise powerful political and economic groups."

The Soviet method of distributing

money among the localities still has an equalizing effect. Mr. Way stated that "the system of intergovernmental finance overwhelmingly benefits a poorer and politically unconnected west at the expense of a richer and politically powerful east" in Ukraine. The effect is an equalizing of local government's budgets, which, in turn, has a beneficial social impact on citizens. Local governments spend \$4.5 billion (14-17 percent of the GNP) and that money constitutes 70 percent of public education, 90 percent of health and the bulk of other social protection programs.

Equality issues aside, reforms are needed. The system is not transparent. The need for transparency and a reduction in bureaucracy echo what other economists and analysts have said at HURI's seminar series this semester.

Moreover, the administration has not reformed from the centrally planned practices of supporting industrial growth and material output. Mr. Way

quoted a Finance Ministry official – "We are the Ministry of Finance, our job is to finance things, not to cut them" – to illustrate the distance remaining to practice cost-based analysis and efficiency, let alone budgeting for actual expenditure commitments.

Reforms are not being realized, in part because some crucial social interests remain entrenched and institutionalized. Key elements among these are wages, which have doubled over the past four years, and unions, which must agree to any firings and are active participants in the budget process. Mr. Way explained how Ukraine demonstrates the capacity to implement policies despite the existing political and economic situation.

He concluded, "the paradox facing Ukraine is that the sources of Ukraine's limited capacity to provide public goods is also the source of resistance to fundamental public sector restructuring. The key task is to try and preserve institutional capacity while also increasing efficiency."

The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Andrij Bilchak, son of Walter and Anna Bilchak, is a new member of UNA Branch 432 in Toronto. He was enrolled by his grandfather Mykola Bilchak.



Adriana Maria Terleckyj, daughter of Dr. Ihor and Olenka Terleckyj of Ridgewood, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 15 (Ukraine Society) in Washington. She was enrolled by her grandparents Dr. Nestor and Martha Terleckyj.



Olena Maria Czabala, daughter of the Rev. Teodor Bohdan Czabala, is a new member of UNA Branch 414 in New Haven, Conn. She was enrolled by her grandparents Teodor and Maria Czabala.



Lucie Kennedy Wiedefeld, daughter of Marcia F. and Paul J. Wiedefeld of Towson, Md., is a member of UNA Branch 320 (and a budding gardener). Her mother, brother, Paul H., and grandparents Paul and Ellen Fenchak also are members of Branch 320.



William Michael Cymbal, son of Andrew and Daria Cymbal, is a new member of UNA Branch 130 in New York. He was enrolled by his grandmother Irena Jadlickyj.



Zoe Elliot, daughter of Andrea and Joseph Elliot of Philadelphia, is a new member of UNA Branch 382. She was enrolled by her grandmother Carol Halupa Elliot and grandfather Ronald Elliot.



Jessica Elliot, daughter of Debbie and Wayne Elliot of Philadelphia, was enrolled into the UNA by her grandparents Carol Halupa Elliot and Ronald Elliot. Jessica and her brother Zachary are both members of UNA Branch 382.



Insure and be sure.
Join the UNA!

Seniors announce conference program

by Anna Chopek

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – The time for the 25th anniversary conference of the Ukrainian National Association Seniors is almost here.

The week of June 13-18 promises a host of day and evening activities, including an auction of Ukrainian items, several cocktail parties, an anniversary party with a program and dancing, Ukrainian videos, card games, bingo, short business sessions and a special liturgy for UNA Seniors now deceased.

There will be a panel discussion by Dr. Roman Baranowsky and Dr. Roman Procyk on the latest developments in Ukraine, including the upcoming presidential elections. There will also be a talk by attorney Anna Chopek on legal prob-

Anna Chopek is president of the UNA Seniors.

lems of the elderly. Both presentations will be followed by question and answer periods. Seniors will have an opportunity to meet with UNA President Ulana Diachuk at a session on Thursday afternoon. An anniversary banquet with Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky as keynote speaker will conclude the conference.

Since Wednesday afternoon will be free of any sessions, participants are advised to bring golf clubs, or bathing suits, and have fun.

Participants will also have an opportunity to enjoy the exhibit of photos taken of the members and their activities over the past 25 years.

Seniors who have served in an office of the association in the past are urged to attend as they will be welcomed and formally introduced to the members.

Seniors' week at the UNA resort will be busy and enjoyable. It is not too late to call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641 to make reservations.

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The Ukrainian Weekly?

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Forty days: a time for reflection

This guest editorial was written by Andrew P. Grigorenko, son of the late Gen. Petro Grigorenko, member of the Moscow and Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring groups. (His commentary was translated from the original Ukrainian by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj of The Weekly's Toronto Press Bureau.)

According to ages-old tradition, 40 days is the period after which the soul of the deceased leaves this world. This is also the time when the pain of those who were left behind dulls and it becomes possible to try and recall memories of the deceased.

My acquaintance with Mr. Chornovil began in the mid-1960s. At the time, my parents' apartment [in Moscow] served as an odd hybrid: part waiting room in a complaints office, part convention hall for human rights activists visiting from other cities, part discussion club. People passed through in endless waves, and I must sheepishly admit that I can't say precisely when I met with whom. Thus it is that I can't remember the exact date of Mr. Chornovil's first visit to our home, but I do have a clear anecdotal recollection of the first time Vyacheslav appeared at our door.

After answering yet another knock at our door, I saw a group of unfamiliar people: one of them immediately drew my attention. The young man wore a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, which in those days was a form of silent shout. His grizzled mustache, though not as grand as Taras Shevchenko's, rather, in fact, similar to mine, strengthened this voiceless cry. In short, I simply couldn't restrain myself from speaking to the newly arrived in Ukrainian. Later I learned that this made a strong impression on Vyacheslav and even played a certain role in ensuring dialogue between Russian and Ukrainian human rights activists.

Russians often found it difficult, completely without ill intent, to understand the feelings and moods of the USSR's non-Russian population; they were even less able to understand nationally patriotic intelligentsia.

Much later in Kyiv a person not aware of my surname informed me that upon Vyacheslav's return from Moscow he told all of his friends that he was deeply impressed that not only had Gen. [Petro] Grigorenko not forgotten Ukrainian, but even his youngest son, born and raised in Moscow, also spoke Ukrainian. Happily, Slavko made no comment about my Russian accent.

I remember a typical example of the Russian inability to understand Ukrainian issues. During one of his visits to Moscow, Slavko, as usual, stayed with us. At the time, my now late godfather, Anatoliy Levitin-Krasnov, casually dropped by. Anatoliy Emmanuilovich loved a good argument. He was also a man well-versed and passionate about Russian literature, however, surprisingly, absolutely unfamiliar with the literature and culture of other peoples. He took it upon himself to prove to Mr. Chornovil the benefits of Russian civilization that had accrued to the Ukrainian people. Understanding that the discussion was to bring little benefit to anyone, I cut in with a joke: "Tread lightly, Anatoliy Emmanuilovich, because Chornovil could at some time become Ukraine's second president."

"Why the second and not the first?" asked a somewhat astounded Levitin-Krasnov.

"You see," I told him, "you've forgotten that Mykhailo Hrushevsky was the first."

There was friendly laughter, and of course nobody thought it possible that my joke would just barely come short of being true. Slavko Chornovil was the only one among my dissident friends who could have become the leader of a post-Soviet state. Unfortunately, Ukraine proved not ready to elect a liberal patriot to a top government post and, as a result, has delayed for many years adopting essential reforms.

Mr. Chornovil's arrest in 1972 and my forced emigration three years later interrupted our lively interaction for 20 years. We met again in Moscow in 1992, at a conference devoted to Russian-Ukrainian relations, and then a few days later in Kyiv. Slavko was already a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, however, this did not affect the openness between us. But now, neither he nor I could change one particular circumstance — the lack of time for long discussions.

We met for the last time in Kyiv in October 1997 at an event held to commemorate my father, in the very building [The Teacher's Building] where Ukraine recently bid farewell to her devoted son. I detected a weariness in him, and this weariness could be felt both in our brief talk together and in the address he delivered that evening. When we parted, he cajoled me for coming to Ukraine so rarely. I promised to do so more often, although I understood that it was not likely that a chance to travel would present itself soon. And thus it was that we were not to see each other again.

Forty days have passed, but various commissions have as yet failed to place a final period at the end of the tragic events — events that caused the death of one of the most prominent political activists in contemporary Ukraine. And I am not at all certain that the whole truth will ever be revealed to us. The only thing that remains is the hope that this untimely death will spur the liberal-democratic forces of Ukraine to greater solidarity and to lead the country onto the path of development and integration with Europe without the loss of national spirit and genuine independence. This, after all, was Vyacheslav Chornovil's dream.

COMMENTARY

Rubin's remarks and their significance

by Eugene M. Iwanciw
and Michael Sawkiw Jr.

On May 2, U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, said on the CNN program "Late Edition": "They (the Kosovars) are not going to go back to their homes after suffering these terrible atrocities if a bunch of Ukrainians are running around with guns on their sides." This comment was made to an international audience that numbers in the tens of millions. Finding the comment serious enough to warrant Mr. Rubin's immediate dismissal, organizations such as the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America have formally requested a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright to discuss the situation.

Many individual Ukrainian Americans are appalled by this comment and have already expressed their outrage to the Department of State and their representatives in Congress. Some, however, have asked just how serious this statement is. The answer is quite simple: Mr. Rubin's comment is very serious and would have resulted in his immediate dismissal had it been made of most other ethnic, religious or racial groups.

We would like to explain why the comment is serious and why nothing less than Mr. Rubin's dismissal is appropriate. The seriousness of the comment is threefold.

1. The wording itself: "A bunch of Ukrainians running around with guns on their sides" is an inappropriate reference to any country's military. It suggests a vigilante group rather than the disciplined military force that Ukraine possesses. The Ukrainian military has received widespread acclaim for the positive role it has played both in joint maneuvers with NATO and its peacekeeping role in Bosnia. Yet, Mr. Rubin's comment suggests that Ukraine's military is not disciplined and cannot be trusted with guns in Kosovo.

2. Impact of words: While we understand that Mr. Rubin comments on many issues and that mistakes are sometimes made, as spokesman for the State Department, his words carry great impact among policymakers throughout the world. There is no other manner in which the Department of State can clearly distance itself from the policy implications of these words except by Mr. Rubin's dismissal.

3. State Department pattern: The comment fits a pattern of treatment of Ukraine by the Department of State that dates back to 1991. During the fall of 1991, between the time of the declaration of Ukraine's independence and U.S. recognition of Ukraine, numerous newspapers around the country carried stories, attributed to unnamed State Department officials, that Ukrainian independence would result in civil war, atrocities, pogroms, etc. The department carried on a campaign against

U.S. recognition of Ukraine. Even President George Bush's decision to recognize Ukraine after the December 1, 1991, referendum on independence — a move, supported by the secretary of defense and the national security advisor — was opposed by the secretary of state.

Soon after recognition of Ukraine, the Department of State began a campaign that painted Ukraine as too irresponsible to possess nuclear weapons. Pressure was exerted on Ukraine, directly and through the media, to turn over all its nuclear weapons to a responsible party, i.e., Russia. Ironically, leaks of nuclear technology to third parties have been traced to Russia and not Ukraine; at that precise time North Korea was building its nuclear weapons. North Korea, unlike Ukraine, does pose a threat to U.S. national security.

For a number of years after independence, Ukraine was listed in the State Department's travel advisory as a dangerous country for U.S. citizens to visit due to "terrorist activity." Only when the Ukrainian community protested and demanded evidence of any terrorism in Ukraine was this travel advisory lifted.

Earlier this year, the State Department's annual Ukraine Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 reported in its summary of events that "deep-seated societal anti-Semitism" exists in Ukraine, without offering substantiation of the claim. Though the report differentiates between societal and governmental actions, such crudely generalized statements are inappropriate in a governmental publication. A comparison of the Ukraine and Russia Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998 does not indicate "societal anti-Semitism" in the Russian summary, despite recent dramatic evidence that anti-Semitism is increasing in that country. Why the double-standard?

Thus, the message sent by the State Department is that Ukraine can be criticized unjustly without any penalty, without a pro forma apology or a cessation of the activity once the damage is done. This is irresponsible treatment of a sovereign state that has close relations with the United States and has sacrificed its own interests (e.g. nuclear weapons, the Kharkiv turbine sale and military sales to third countries, etc.) to accommodate U.S. concerns.

Words have meaning and repercussions. When words are publicly uttered, intentionally or unintentionally, by government officials, they cannot be recalled. Failure to respond to this comment about Ukraine and Ukrainians will send a loud and clear message to all government officials that Ukrainians are "fair game" for erroneous or derogatory comments, intentional or not. Only the dismissal of James Rubin will make it clear to all government officials that they must be as careful in their selection of words when talking about Ukraine or Ukrainians as they are when they speak of other ethnic, religious or racial groups.

groups and fascinated by the question of ethnic identity and political allegiance.

In 1935 he edited "Canadian Overtones," the first anthology of "New Canadian" writings in English translation. In 1937, he began a 28-year series of annual reviews of "Publications in Other Languages" for the University of Toronto Quarterly, of which Ukrainian writings were a major part.

In 1939 Kirkconnell compiled a study of political attitudes of various European nationalities, "Canada, Europe and Hitler" (1939), in which he provided a sketch of recent Ukrainian history and concluded that Ukrainian nationalists were likely to be hostile to the Nazis.

This work was also a study of allegiance to Canada, of which Kirkconnell found strong evidence among Ukrainians. It also brought to the fore his strong distaste for Communists in general and the Ukrainian Labor-Farmer Temple Association (later the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians) in particular.

In 1940 Kirkconnell joined the faculty at McMaster University in Hamilton, but was also often in Ottawa, advising the government on how to shore up the country's war effort among Canada's minorities. At the request of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie

(Continued on page 9)

May
16
1895

Turning the pages back...

Part paternalistic overseer, part establishment mentor, Watson Kirkconnell played an important role in Ukrainian Canadian history. Born on May 16, 1895, in Port Hope, Ontario (about 60 miles east of Toronto), he studied English and classics at Queen's

University in 1913-1916.

After a brief stint on the staff at the Royal Military College, he was appointed captain in the Department of Internment Operations, serving at the Fort Henry (1916) and Kapuskasing (1917-1919) camps. After the war Kirkconnell studied economics at Oxford, then in 1922 accepted a request to return to Canada and teach English at Wesley College in Winnipeg. As he wrote in his memoir, on the boat back from England he met "cultured fugitives from Bolshevik terror in Eastern Europe."

In Winnipeg he became interested in the languages and literatures of the city's minority

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's not squander community's capital

Dear Editor:

I wish to offer a modest proposal: that we conserve our capital for truly important and effective investments.

The capital I have in mind is the "Action Item" rubric in *The Weekly*.

The item regarding the James Rubin remark about "a bunch of Ukrainians ... running around with guns on their sides" to me is squandering of this capital.

Was I not offended by Mr. Rubin's remark? Of course I was. I even began to compose in my head a letter protesting it. But shooting from the hip is rarely a good policy.

In this case, Mr. Rubin did put a spin on it at the first opportunity, during the next day's State Department briefing where – unlike at a live TV talk show – he has a thick briefing book in front of him, with questions and answers cleared by half a dozen policy specialists on every imaginable subject. That's when he is spelling out U.S. policy; a TV talk show, after all, is entertainment. Let him or her who has never blurted out a regrettable remark cast the first stone, and let us throw action items at officials when we don't like the policy they pronounce.

In your editorial you suggest Mr. Rubin's remarks were bigoted or prejudiced. Those are strong words.

Let's put things in perspective: top people at State have been under considerable pressure over the past month. What if Mr. Rubin appeared in the TV studio physically drained and edgy at suggestions (originating in Belgrade and Moscow) that NATO troops must not be leading the protective force for displaced Kosovars, when Rubin's policymakers insist that they must? Is an infelicitous remark a definite possibility under such circumstances?

And to suggest that Mr. Rubin be immediately dismissed over his remark – after he, as you put it, "almost apologized" – is, to put it mildly, naive. There's no hope in hell the secretary of state would dismiss her virtual son and close confidant over an infelicitous remark on a no-brain TV talk show. So why ask for it? Just to feel good?

It would have been far better not to hurl insults at an important State Department official via an avalanche of "action item" faxes that would only make him angry at Ukrainians, and instead to do nothing (after his "almost apology"). But at the same time, keep in mind that Jamie Rubin knows that we know, that he owes us one.

Let's conserve our capital for worthy, effective investments.

R.L. Chomiak
McLean, Va.

More on Ukraine and EU membership

Dear Editor:

David Marples' article on national minorities in Central and Eastern Europe mistakenly states that Latvia's request for European Union membership has been turned down because of its national minority policies. Unfortunately, this is

not the case. Latvia and Lithuania are both in the "slow track" group of five future EU members. Estonia, which has the worst national minority record of the three Baltic states, is actually in the "fast track" group of six future EU members (together with nationally homogenous states such as Poland, Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic).

Ukraine, with one of the best national minority records in the former Soviet bloc that even outshines many Western liberal democracies (many of whom do not even legally recognize the concept of national minorities), is neither in the fast nor slow track groups of future EU members. Why? Ukraine's former Ambassador to the Benelux countries, Borys Tarasyuk, said the reason was twofold: first, the EU believed it could not let in Ukraine without Russia; second, Ukraine was a member of the Eurasian CIS, which meant it lay outside Europe.

Both of these reasons do not stand up to scrutiny and are more a reflection of the Russophilism permeating the EU. Let's remember that the Council of Europe likewise wanted to let in Ukraine only together with Russia. Yet, the latter was in the middle of a very violent conflict in Chechnya at the time while Ukraine had resolved the Crimean question without a shot being fired.

The EU (and NATO), therefore, both need to re-evaluate their membership criteria which at the moment are inconsistent.

Dr. Taras Kuzio
London

The writer is honorary research fellow at the University of North London.

Location of museum is key to its future

Dear Editor:

Given the recent decision by the board of The Ukrainian Museum in New York to postpone construction of a new building pending the availability of additional building funds, perhaps it is wise to revisit the issue of where to build.

Consider this: The New York Times routinely runs an ad for the "Museum Mile" featuring "eight museums" in "one destination" on Fifth Avenue between 82nd and 104th streets. Included in that list is the renowned Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as the essentially unknown El Museo del Barrio.

The building housing the Ukrainian Institute of America is just south of this prestigious row. Millions of visitors walk by the institute's building every year. Why can't the institute's building serve as The Ukrainian Museum for the world to see?

And if space is an issue, then I leave you with this thought. It seems that it would be more beneficial to have 1 million visitors view three exhibit halls than 100,000 visitors view six.

Location. Location. Location. That, together with some genuine community cooperation, can create a magnificent center stage for exhibiting things Ukrainian.

Andrew Fylypovych
Willow Grove, Pa.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Been there, done that!

As President Leonid Kuchma entertains the siren call of "Slavic unity" as preached by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, we need to remember that Ukraine has been there, done that.

Cooperation with Russia was first attempted by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky in the 17th century and the result was a national calamity. Ukrainians believed the 1648 Treaty of Pereiaslav was a mutual defense pact. Moscow interpreted it as an invitation to rule. The end came slowly but, inexorably. In 1686 the metropolitanate of Kyiv was incorporated into the Patriarchate of Moscow with the formal approval of the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople, effectively ending Ukrainian Orthodox autonomy.

Russian absorption followed. Moscow abolished the Ukrainian Hetmanate in 1764; the Zaporozhian Sich was destroyed in 1775; Ukraine was formally incorporated into the Russian empire in 1783; in 1863 the Ukrainian language was officially designated a Russian dialect spoken by "little Russians."

Ukraine's second experiment with "Slavic unity" occurred at the end of the first world war. Having failed to entice the Kyiv-based Ukrainian National Republic into the Bolshevik camp, Lenin pushed for the establishment of a Soviet Ukrainian republic centered in Kharkiv. With the defeat of the nationalist forces, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic signed a treaty with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. This time, Muscovite control was evident from the beginning, despite protests by such national communists as Mykola Skrypnyk, who declared "a single, unified Russia is not our slogan. We can never adopt such a slogan."

Tragically for Ukraine, a unified Russia was Moscow's slogan and when, in 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was established, it was obvious that Russia planned to pursue that goal. Despite a vigorous Ukrainianization campaign during the mid-1920s, Ukrainian influence was quickly eroded. The 1924 Soviet Constitution stipulated that all republic decisions could be suspended by the Soviet Central Committee in Moscow and that the Soviet Supreme Court had the right to review all republic legislation. The obliteration of Ukrainian national consciousness was complete by the XIVth CP(b)U Congress in 1938 when Ukrainian Communist Party Secretary Nikita Khrushchev condemned an emphasis on Ukrainian culture and language as a pernicious manifestation of "bourgeois Ukrainian nationalism" intended to undermine the heroic role of the Great Russian people in the building of a socialist society. So much for Ukrainian-Russian "unity."

Slavic unity in general, is not a new phenomenon, first appearing as a formal doctrine, "pan-Slavism," in the 19th century. "The idea of a union of all Slavs into a mighty coalition began in the 18th century at a time when almost all Slavic peoples were minorities in the Russian, Austrian, Turkish and Prussian empires," writes Louis L. Snyder. At the time, German romantic philosopher Johann Gottfried von Herder glorified the Slavs as a modest, peaceful people, obedient, uncorrupted by modern society, with no pretensions toward national expansion. Slavs were urged by philosopher Herder to rediscover their past, renew their language and to stand firm against the increasingly decadent West.

The fathers of pan-Slavism were two Lutheran Slovak idealists, Jan Kollar and

Pavel Safarik who contributed to the ideological development of "Samobytnost," a principle which held that all Slavs shared the same heritage. Out of this idea emerged the concept of a Slavic federation promoted by Frantisek Palacky, a Czech. Encouraged by the spirit of liberty and fraternalism that prevailed in Austria in 1848, Palacky helped organize a Slav congress in Prague that same year in hopes of initiating a movement that would transform Austria into a federation of equal nationalities.

Slavs attended sessions in their native costumes, greeted each other with the word "Slava," and unfurled a new Slavic tricolor flag, blue, white and red. Jan Kollar called for the publication of an international Slavic periodical, the formation of a Slav academy, a Slav library, and both central and national committees for political and cultural affairs. The congress, however, reached no consensus, ending abruptly two days earlier than planned when a revolutionary radical group led by Mikhail Bakunin, a Russian, staged an uprising in the city.

At the time, pan-Slavism struck a responsive chord among Ukrainian intellectuals. The Society of Ss. Cyril and Methodius called for a federation of equal Slavic nations. Taras Shevchenko, a member of the society, dedicated his poem "The Heretic" to Pavel Safarik, writing: "Glory to you, Safarik, ever and forever! That you called into one ocean all the Slavic rivers."

Hopes for an Austrian federation of nationalities came to an end in 1867 when Austria reached a compromise with the Hungarians and the Austro-Hungarian empire was created. That same year the Russians hosted a second Pan-Slavic Congress in Moscow. From the beginning, Moscow dominated the proceedings, insisting that Slavic unity could only be achieved when all Slavs adopted the Orthodox faith, the Cyrillic alphabet and the Russian language. Until such an amalgamation was accomplished, the Russians "graciously" consented to serving as "big Slavic brothers" to all the other "little Slavs."

The main apostle of pan-Slavism at this juncture was Nikolai Danilevsky, who grafted great Russian Slavophilism, onto pan-Slavism, advocating the "liberation" of the Slavic people by Russia. Western Europe, he argued, had degenerated into religious anarchy as a result of Catholic political despotism; Protestantism advocated the "foolish idea that religious truth was based on personal authority." The true faith of the Slavic people was Orthodoxy, he maintained, preserved in its pristine form by the Russians, inhabitants of the third and final Rome. Holy Russia, ruled by Orthodoxy, the holy tsar, and the people (narod) would lead the world to the paradise of true Christianity.

Later, the ideological foundation upon which Russian messianic nationalism is constructed – Orthodoxy, autocracy and narod – was refined and adopted by the Russian Bolsheviks. Marxism-Leninism became the new Orthodoxy; commissars replaced the tsars; the proletariat became the new narod.

No nation has tried harder to cooperate with Russia than Ukraine, and no nation has paid a greater price. Slavic unity with Russia means Slavic suicide. History is a teacher and, in the words of philosopher George Santanaya: those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: mbkuropas@compuserve.com

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Springtime at the institute

by Helen Smindak

"Flowers as Muse"

Following recent events that featured First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and opera luminaries Paul Plishka and Oksana Krovtytska, spring made a grand entrance at the Ukrainian Institute of America on May 1 with a bouquet of floral still-lives by six gifted artists.

The exhibition "Flowers as Muse," dedicated to the memory of the late Daria Hoydysh, who was both a lover of flowers and dedicated in her efforts to showcase art at the institute, was organized by artist Ilona Sochynsky to show "the exuberance, forcefulness and beauty of flowers when they are the primary source of inspiration to artistic expression." The exhibit runs until May 29.

Late-afternoon sunshine spilled into the galleries on opening day, illuminating the daffodils, irises, daylilies and sunflowers that bloomed on the walls. Through open windows came the sounds of Fifth Avenue traffic and Central Park strollers reveling in the return of spring as Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko, art historian at Smith College, delivered an appraisal of the art work which, he said, revealed "a variety of approaches and mediums in addressing the floral motif."

The bold strokes in Nina Klymowska's "Amaryllis" series of India ink drawings highlight the flower in gray-black tones and remove the "enticing component of color," which, according to Prof. Leshko, reminds viewers that a flower's beauty may be found in its various aspects. The enticing component of color, however, is very evident in two large folding screens decorated on both sides by Ms. Klymowska in acrylic and dominated by a bold image of the iris with rich decorations and undulating lines.

Olga Maryschuk's hand-colored block prints, inspired by mosaics seen on a recent trip to Italy, were made using a technique that combines a reductive method of block printing and painting. The artist's program notes state that only one plate was used, but the materials according to their own properties and the accidental blending of colors creates an iridescent play of light.

Prof. Leshko pointed out that the process – the intricate arrangement of small, colorful segments that animate the surface, like tesserae in a mosaic from the Byzantine town of Ravenna – was as compelling as the beauty of Ms. Maryschuk's "Bird and Flower" series and her "Ravenna" series.

Rust-colored, dramatic flower sculptures from the estate of Natalia Pohrebinska in Lexington, N.Y., were composed by the artist, who is primarily a painter, from discarded pieces of iron and transformed into flowers by arranging, welding and molding. The three compelling works on display – "Mother Rose," "Facing the Sun" and "Grace" – range in height from 5 1/2 feet to 7 feet.

Daffodils, the pride and joy of Nantucket Island, are in bloom in most of the richly colored watercolors exhibited by Romana Rainey. According to Prof. Leshko, Ms. Rainey creates "a symbiotic correspondence" between the lyrical grace and beauty of the flower and the liquid fluidity of the watercolor medium, the perfect component to the flower's delicacy.

The exuberant pastels of Ms. Sochynsky reveal a seasonal preoccupation with flowers which, the artist confesses, provides "instant gratification in a frenzied, nectar-laden environment." That frenzy can be seen in her "Wild Flowers" pastel, which resembles an explosive burst of fireworks. In Prof. Leshko's view, Ms. Sochynsky "expertly and with flair orchestrates the pastel medium to maximum effect."

Martha Hirniak Voyevodka's series of delicate watercolors brings to life amaryllis, iris and orchid blossoms – each, according to the artist, a unique portrait in which the flower's own personality becomes the essence of each work. Prof. Leshko noted a strong link between Ms. Voyevodka's "unerring, exclusive focus on the lone flower, devoid of background arrangements" and the art of Pierre-Joseph Redoute, whom he called the sublime practitioner of the historical tradition of floral watercolors.

The work of these six artists has been exhibited in scores of one-woman and group shows and is represented in private and corporate collections in several countries, including Austria, Canada, Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

Ms. Klymowska, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, taught art and did stage sets for the Welsh National Opera Company while studying on a scholarship at the Cardiff College of Art in Wales. She teaches at Mother Cabrini High School in New York City.

Another New Yorker, Ms. Maryschuk, is a graduate of The Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture and the Pratt Graphic Center, and held a one-year scholarship at the Kyiv State Art Institute.



Nina Klymowska's "Iris #2" (72 by 96 inches).

Ms. Pohrebinska, an art curator, teacher and judge who owns the Stone House Gallery in Lexington, N.Y., holds a master of fine arts degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Her home, with its art and antique collections, has been featured in several publications, including *Country Living* magazine.

Nantucket resident Ms. Rainey holds a master of fine arts degree from Hunter College in New York. Ms. Voyevodka, who lives in Reno, Nevada, received an MFA degree from Kent State University and studied at the Angewandte Kunst Akademie in Vienna.

Ms. Sochynsky, an MFA graduate of Yale University, is an adjunct professor of arts and humanities at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and has her own design firm, Ilona Sochynsky Associates, which specializes in corporate communications, advertising campaigns and corporate identity programs.

Music and Me

Fine achievements sometimes evolve, quite unexpectedly, from modest beginnings.

Twenty-six years ago, piano teacher Marta Sawycky started a music program for pre-schoolers in Irvington, N.J. soon after her own children (then 2 1/2 and 5) began to ask if they could bring friends home to participate in the

music hour that was such an enjoyable part of the family's daily routine.

The project has been thriving year after year and last fall, thanks to a fictitious frog who charmed a flock of youngsters at the Ukrainian Institute of America the year before, Mrs. Sawycky opened a branch of her Music and Me pre-school program in New York.

The frog, "Zhaba," was the featured performer during an afternoon of audience-participation musical games for children, organized and directed by Mrs. Sawycky as a special UIA presentation. Zhaba not only enchanted the children, also captivated UIA administrators, who invited the New Jersey piano teacher to conduct a pre-school program at the institute.

Under Mrs. Sawycky's pleasant and firm direction, twice a week 13 youngsters age 2 1/2 to 5 are learning to listen to music, to understand it and love it, and to react to the music with their bodies. Each two-hour class, patterned after the teaching methods of the famous musicologist Jacques Emile Dal Croze, concentrates on rhythmic movements, story-telling and role-playing to the accompaniment of piano music.

When I dropped by last November to watch a class in action in a third-floor rehearsal room at the institute,

(Continued on page 9)



Pupils of the Music and Me program directed by Marta Sawycky at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

Springtime...

(Continued from page 8)

all was quiet: the children were resting on floor mats after a noontime snack. Soon they were up, and there were squeals of delight: it was time for instrument study.

Bright-eyed and eager, the little girls and boys sat in little chairs and played their "violins" – a short red stick held up to the chin, another red stick serving as a bow. Following their teacher's example, they kept time with recorded violin music. Switching to longer sticks, the children played their "cellos," then stood to play their "contrabasses."

Each student has taken a turn at playing a real violin, viola and cello brought to class by their teacher and each received a picture of the instrument being studied and a picture of a person playing that instrument.

"String instruments are on yellow paper. Next week, when we start on woodwinds, the pictures will be on brown paper, so they can see the different families of musical instruments," Mrs. Sawycky explained to me later.

"I make everything very simple, and I make a game out of it – the children don't realize that they are really learning all the time," she noted.

According to Mrs. Sawycky, "I had to re-train [the children], slowly, to listen to music, because music is a language. Even though children hear music everywhere – in stores, on TV, on the radio – to them it's just background noise. First of all, they had to be trained to sit still in a chair. For a lot of them, it was also the first experience in group play or in a group situation."

Classes, conducted in Ukrainian, begin in the same way, with actions to which children can relate. They pretend they are sleeping (as Mrs. Sawycky plays a soft lullaby), then they pray (to devotional music) joined in their activities by Kermit the Frog, who came over from Sesame Street

to learn the Ukrainian alphabet. They wash their faces and brush their teeth, comb their hair, eat breakfast, get dressed and climb stairs to their classroom, each move accompanied by music that fits the mood and tempo of the action.

The children perform little steps choreographed by Mrs. Saywcky to the music of "The Nutcracker." After that, there's usually story-telling; this morning it's about the leaves falling down, with thunderous piano chords mimicking thunder, pizzicato notes simulating raindrops, long drawn-out tones for the wind, placid sounds for clouds and a cascade of tinkling notes for tumbling leaves. Each child has chosen a role and learns to listen to the music for his/her turn to stand up and perform that role, to stomp as thunder or to take itsy-bitsy steps as rain.

Mrs. Sawycky loves working with young children "because they are great at this age – they learn and respond so marvelously." She directs a Music and Me class at Irvington's Ukrainian community center (two of her three grandchildren are enrolled there) as well as a pre-school class at the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers, N.Y. She's very interested in starting up an English-speaking pre-school program in New York, open to the public, like the one she directed for two summers at the Cranford, N.J., library.

Parents of New York class members have been expressing amazement at what their offspring have accomplished in just a few months. They're expecting more surprises when the children and their mentor present an interactive story for children "Ripka" (The Turnip) at the institute on May 23. The playlet, with narrative by Mrs. Sawycky, is scheduled for 3 p.m. and is open to the public. The New York youngsters will also perform in Irvington on June 13, at 3 p.m., joining their Yonkers and Irvington schoolmates in the annual "kazka" (storytelling) presentation. The feature this year: "Chervona Shapochka" (Little Red Riding Hood).

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

though no charges have been filed against him, he bears moral and political responsibility. If I were in Mr. Yuschenko's shoes I would resign," said Mr. Suslov, who has been named often as the leftists' choice to run the NBU.

Communists and Socialists in the Verkhovna Rada have tried to use the National Bank of Ukraine as a political tool against President Kuchma on more than one occasion, most recently in October 1998 when leftist national deputies tried to pin the blame on Mr. Yuschenko for the financial crisis that hit Ukraine earlier that summer.

The NBU has had to answer also to critics who feel that its banking practices are not sufficiently transparent and that it wields too much independence. The special commission that Mr. Suslov heads was formed after the October parliamentary debate.

In its report Mr. Suslov's investigative committee accused the NBU of a questionable deposit of \$580 million into a Cypriot Bank, Credit Suisse-First Boston Ltd., between May 12, 1997, and January 28, 1998. It states that \$85 million of that money has not yet been returned.

Cyprus is notorious for its liberal banking laws that are used by crime families to shelter and launder shady money. The commission report states that "the Credit Suisse-First Boston Ltd. bank is not on the list of first-class banking institutions."

The report also cited the NBU for "pumping Ukrainian currency into the Moscow-based National Reserve Bank" and for prematurely exchanging government external loan bonds that were not due to mature until 2002-2005 for government domestic loan bonds.

Furthermore, it accused the bank of making poor quality loans, specifically a \$15 million loan to the Kharkiv-based Real-Bank, which was made using the Cypriot bank as an intermediary. The loan, which was to be used for the privatization of an enterprise, still has not been repaid, according to the commission's report.

Mr. Yuschenko responded to the accusations and allegations by stating that "there are no alleged losses."

"The National Bank is cynically accused of something that it cannot be accused of," said the bank chairman, emphasizing that independent audits support his assertions.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

King, he wrote "The Ukrainian Canadians and the War" (1940), the first of many pamphlets on this theme.

Already in 1939 Kirkconnell helped set up the Department of National War Services and served on advisory committee of its Nationalities Branch.

Kirkconnell also urged Ukrainian Canadian activists to create a united non-Communist organization in support of the war effort. In November 1940, such an organization was formed: the Ukrainian Canadian Committee. He delivered an address at the UCC's first congress in June 1943 in Winnipeg, in which he attacked both fascism and communism. That year, he founded the Humanities Research Council and began a four-year stint as its director.

During the war Kirkconnell was an earnest anti-Soviet despite the USSR's status as an ally, and after the war he continued to denounce Soviet repressions of Poland, the Baltics, Hungary and Ukraine. In 1946 he addressed a UCC-organized rally at Toronto's Massey Hall, in which he roundly denounced Stalin's regime.

In 1948 Kirkconnell was appointed president of Acadia University, where he remained for the rest of his career. The following year he was made a full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and granted an honorary doctorate in Ukrainian philology by the Ukrainian Free University.

Kirkconnell worked together with Prof. Constantine Andrusyshen to produce two volumes of Ukrainian poetry in translation: "The Ukrainian Poets, 1189-1962" (1963) and "The Poetical Works of Taras Shevchenko" (1964).

Watson Kirkconnell died in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, on February 26, 1977.

Sources: Watson Kirkconnell, "A Slice of Canada," (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1967); Watson Kirkconnell, "Canada, Europe and Hitler," (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1939); Thomas Prymak, "Maple Leaf and Trident" (Toronto: Multicultural History Society of Ontario, 1988); "Kirkconnell, Watson," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 2* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988).

Former New Yorker...

(Continued from page 1)

winter you can't even be sure that it is open," said Ms. Stecura.

Museum Director Mykhailo Romanyshyn has eagerly welcomed Ms. Stecura's initiative. Because he has had much contact with the curators of the large museums of Europe and the United States, he understands that the notion of a benefactors' society, although new to Ukraine, is commonplace elsewhere.

"This is truly a historical moment, without a doubt, because it is a change in the way we are funding our institutions," said Mr. Romanyshyn.

He explained that although a January 1999 presidential decree directed the Cabinet of Ministers to fully fund reconstruction of the museum, it has not received any funds. "The situation in the museum is catastrophic," explained the museum director.

Mr. Romanyshyn said that because of the poor structural state of the building only 5 to 7 percent, or merely 2,300 square feet, of exhibition space was being utilized.

Currently, according to Mr. Romanyshyn, there may be no centennial celebrations – which he still hopes to conduct on September 13 – because no money has been released for that either. He expects that sufficient funding will be found to fulfill plans for a new exhibition of Ukrainian art from the 12th century to the present. He also would like to host an international academic conference and publish a centennial jubilee catalogue.

Right now his hopes are pinned on Ms. Stecura and the friends she has brought to the museum.

The group currently composed of

Ukrainians from Ukraine and the diaspora, with the U.S. Commercial Attaché Andrew Bihun acting as honorary chairman, has planned three initial fund-raising events.

The first, a jazz recital with dinner was held on May 2 at the Building of Receptions near Ukraine's Parliament. The proceeds from the benefit, which was attended by some 60 individuals, including U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and his spouse, were to provide the seed money for two larger fund-raisers. One will be a fashion show on the steps of the museum scheduled for May 22 and the other a summer masquerade ball in the museum's main hall, scheduled for June 12.

The organizing committee, which consists of a large number of Americans working and living in Kyiv, is looking to attract the affluent Ukrainian middle class, known as "New Ukrainians," into its ranks. For in the end it is their museum that the "Friends" want to help finance.

Members of the Ukraine's nouveau riche, obvious on Kyiv's streets by the Mercedes Benzes they drive and designer suits they wear, has not yet shown that it wants to make worthy causes part of their conspicuous consumption.

Undeterred, Ms. Stecura said she will find them and make them understand that Ukraine's public institutions are dependent on them.

The Friends of the National Art Museum are in the process of forming an international charitable organization and are also looking to the West for moral and financial support. If you will be in Kyiv during the time of one of the charitable benefits and would like to attend, or if you would like more information on the work of the Friends organization, contact Irena Stecura, (044) 442-45-61.



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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

Your chance to choose

On March 1, 1992, newly independent Ukraine began once more to issue its own stamps. The following year I launched a ballot, open to all, for an award to recognize the best stamp design of 1992. This stamp selection process has become an annual event, with votes being cast for the outstanding design of the previous year.

The award is named the Heorhii Narbut Prize after Ukraine's famous graphic artist of the early 20th century. He designed the 30-, 40- and 50-shah values of Ukraine's first stamp series (see *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 14) and also many of Ukraine's first bank notes.

The Narbut Prize initiative has not only met but exceeded my expectations. One of the primary goals in setting up the award was to improve the stamp designs generated by Ukraine Post, and this aim has certainly been accomplished. Ukrainian stamps continue to improve every year, serving as splendid philatelic ambassadors to the world. Additionally, the establishment of the prize has generated keen interest among Ukrainian artists eager to vie for the substantial monetary award. (The amount presented easily exceeds what the artists obtain from the government for their stamp designs.)

Although the response to the Narbut Prize has been favorable – Ukraine Post cites the voting results in listing its best stamp of the year – I'm constantly seeking new publicity venues to encourage wider voter participation. And what better way to help increase

balloting — while at the same time exposing readers to Ukraine's beautiful philatelic issues than to include an election form in *The Weekly*! This month's column, then, will consist of short descriptions of all of last year's stamp releases, followed by a form for your selection. Ballots may be photocopied if more than one member of a household wishes to vote.

- | No. | Description |
|---------|---|
| 180 | Volodymyr Sosiura (1898-1965): Commemorating the centenary of this outstanding poet's birth. |
| 181-182 | Winter Olympics 1998, Nagano, Japan: Two designs depict a figure skater and a biathlete. |
| 183 | Bilhorod Dnistrovskyy: Commemorates the 2,500-year anniversary of the founding of this ancient city; shown is a colorful rendition of the city's famous fortress (built in the 15th century). |
| 184 | Honoring the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet: The stamp portion (right) depicts the frigate Hetman Sahaidachnyi; the attached label (left) shows a sailing ship, the monument to sailors lost at sea, and the building in Sevastopol where the philatelic exhibit "Ukrphilexp 98" was held. |
| 185 | Ukrainian Coins: Past and Present: Souvenir sheet issued in conjunction with last year's meeting in Kyiv for the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. |
| 186 | The Festival of Ivan Kupalo: Europa Series: The midsummer celebration is depicted with a girl in folk costume floating a candle-lit garland on water (part of a divination ritual). |
| 187 | The Nature Preserve "Askania Nova": This souvenir sheet shows various animals from the wildlife sanctuary as well as a prehistoric stone statue ("kami-ana baba") on the left. |
| 188-191 | * Paintings From the Lviv Picture Gallery: The triptych displays a "Portrait of Maria Theresa," "Madonna with Child" and "Man with a Cello." The souvenir sheet is titled "Madonna with Child and Two Saints." |
| 192 | Kyiv Polytechnic Institute Centennial: This souvenir sheet shows a frontal view of the institute and part of the Kyiv skyline. |
| 193 | Askold and Dyr: The stamp depicts the two semi-legendary ninth century rulers of Kyiv, the attached label (top) reproduces the text from the ancient chronicles describing their joint reign. |

* Indicates that this stamp release has been described in a previous article that appeared in *The Ukrainian Weekly*.



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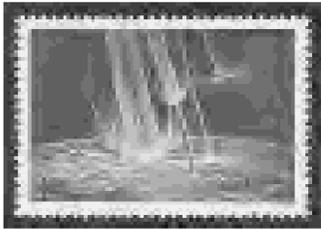
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194 350th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Ukrainian Struggle for Freedom under Bohdan Khmelnytsky: Elaborate souvenir sheet presents a portrait of the famous hetman in the upper center, his crest on the bottom and weapons along the sides. Various battle scenes fill out the rest of the busy design.

195 1,100 Years of the City of Halych: Depicts the bejeweled crown of King Danylo, which was presented to him in 1253 by the pope in recognition of his rule over the Halych-Volyn Kingdom.

196 * Anna Yaroslavna (ca. 1024-ca.1075): Daughter of Yaroslav the Wise ("Father-in-Law of Europe"), she became queen of France in 1049 and regent for her son in 1060-1062. The stamp shows her holding the model of a church she sponsored as well as the royal scepter. This is the third stamp of the "Renowned Women of Ukraine" series.

197 Yuriy Fedorovich Lysiansky (1773-1837): Issued on the 225th birth anniversary of the first Ukrainian to circumnavigate the globe. Lysiansky also explored various parts of the Pacific.

198 Natalia Uzhvii (1898-1986): Centennial of the famous actress and theatrical promoter.

199-203 Scientists of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute: The five prominent researchers depicted are: V.L. Kyrpychov, first director of KPI; Ye. O. Paton, pioneer in welding and metallurgy; S.P. Tymoshenko, materials scientist; I. I. Sikorsky, aviation pioneer and "Father of the Helicopter"; and S.P. Korolev, rocket scientist.

204 International Day of the Post and Postage Stamp Day: Shows a postal horn with trident.

205 Millennium of Chronicles and Books in Ukraine: Portrait of the earliest-known chronicler, the monk Nestor.

206-207 Historic Ukrainian Churches: Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral (Chernihiv, 11th century) and Pokrovsky Cathedral (Kharkiv, 17th century).

208-211 Wildlife Conservation: Four stamps depicting the wild duck Chervonovola Kazarka (Branta rificollis). Also released as a miniature sheet.

(Continued on page 12)



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NARBUT PRIZE BALLOT

Dear Mr. Eppel: My selection for this year's Narbut Prize, as the best stamp design of 1998, is: No. _____ Title _____ Sincerely, Mr.(s.) _____ Mail this ballot to: Mr. Patrick Eppel, 108 Pinewood Circle, Apple Valley, MN 55124. The deadline for submitting ballots is August 15, 1999.

Your chance...

(Continued from page 11)

- 213 Hetman Petro Doroshenko (1627-1698): A portrait of the hetman (center), the battle at Chyhyryn (left), and Volokdamsk, where he was imprisoned (right).
- 214-215 Antonov Aviation: Two planes constructed at the Antonov airplane factory: the AN-140 and the AN-70.
- 216 Borys D. Hrinchenko (1863-1910): Issued on the 135th anniversary of the birth of the prominent civic

leader, educator, writer, folklorist and linguist. In the background, behind a portrait of Hrinchenko, are the opening pages of his monumental dictionary of the Ukrainian language.

- 217 "Merry Christmas": Shown is a folk icon featuring carolers in Kozak-era folk costumes.
- 218 * 50 Years of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Australia: A map of the Southern Continent and a large "50" through which bloom the watarah of Australia and the kalyna of Ukraine.

219 "Star Wounds of the Earth": The Illinetz meteorite impact site. A representation of meteorites striking the earth some 400 million years ago near Illintsi, Vinnytsia Oblast, in Ukraine.

220-221 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights - Works of the Folk Artist Kateryna Bilokur: A central label shows a portrait of the well-known folk painter, while the two outer stamps show samples of her art: "Flowers in Fog" (1940) and "Bouquet of Flowers" (1959).



193

UUARC collects \$60,000 for flood-ravaged regions

by Lew Iwaskiw

PHILADELPHIA - The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee's aid to flood victims in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine and the Mare region of Romania has thus far collected more than \$60,000.

Within days of the disaster in November 1998, the UUARC sent urgent appeals for help to the Ukrainian American community, through national and local Ukrainian newspapers and radio programs in the Philadelphia and New York-New Jersey areas, as well as via letters to Catholic and Orthodox Ukrainian parishes.

The community responded swiftly and generously. Many community organizations and parishes organized local drives and delivered their collections to the UUARC. The extraordinary efforts of certain individuals should be noted: Joann Tytanych from Altoona, Pa., and Lydia Boyko from Newport News, Va., along with their volunteers, drove truckloads of

supplies collected by their communities many hundreds of miles to Philadelphia.

To date, the UUARC has received over \$60,000, of which \$20,000 has been distributed as emergency aid in the Transcarpathian region by UUARC director in western Ukraine, Dr. A. Dyda. More than 300 parcels of new and used clothing, blankets and personal items have been sent by container to Mukachiv in Zakarpattia, and \$15,000 was sent to the Association of Ukrainians in Romania, where over 1,000 Ukrainian families in three villages in the Mare region were left homeless.

A complete report on the UUARC collection effort will be published in the Ukrainian press in the near future. However, relief efforts are continuing with the reconstruction of homes damaged by mudslides. The UUARC has earmarked the balance of the funds for building supplies for home construction. Donations may be sent to: UUARC, 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.



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Chornomortsi remember a fallen comrade: Slavko Luchkan

by Zenon Stakhiv

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – It was a curious way of remembering a fallen comrade, but we've been at it for almost 20 years now – mostly a bunch of old guys running around in shorts that were too tight and on feet that were once fleet. There were flashes of past brilliance, but mostly it was sheer, plodding determination to avoid last place.

The "usual suspects" gathered once again for their annual Plast Chornomortsi doubles tennis tournament in Morristown, N.J. commemorating their old friend and mentor, Yaroslav "Slavko" Luchkan. After the matches there was the usual get-together at Orest Fedash's Ramada Hotel in nearby East Hanover to savor the victories, create new myths, nurse tennis elbows and to reminisce.

Those who knew Slavko well reflected on how different their lives might have been had Slavko not died tragically just over 25 years ago on that fateful day, September 22, 1973. He was determined, as was his nature, to fly his single engine-plane alone in horrendous stormy weather from Hartford to Detroit to attend a conference ("rada") of Chornomortsi. He never made it. At the age of 37, he left behind his wife, Valya, and his two small children, Slavko and Roksolyana, profoundly altering their lives as well.

Slavko was the kind of guy who changed your lifestyle simply by the force of his character and presence, his ideals and noble goals, and his optimistic dynamism and leadership. We toasted Slavko, his place in our lives and committed his deeds to our hearts.

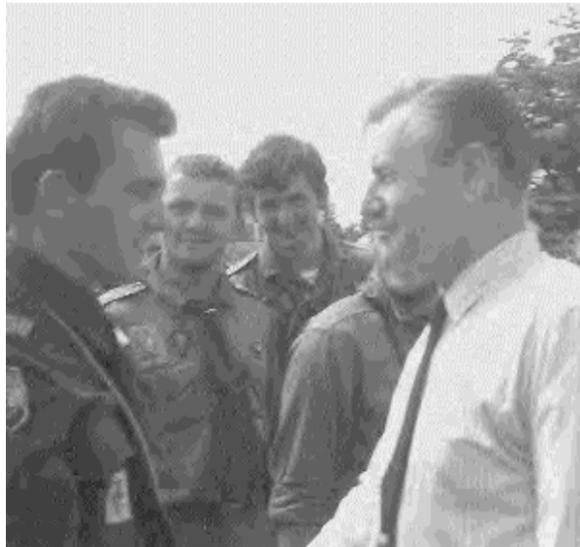
Ihor Lukiw presented the trophy to the victors, Steve Sosiak and Andrew Hadzewycz. We thanked the organizers, Eugene Mandziy and Mr. Lukiw (second-place winners), for giving us yet another excuse to get together during the year to have some fun and reminisce. Alex Popovich's role in initiating the tennis tradition and this salute to Slavko's memory was warmly recalled. Several noted that Mr. Sosiak seems to win every year, but with a different partner. Mr. Hadzewycz, a Chornomoret, was Mr. Sosiak's lucky partner this year.

Since it's mostly Plast members who show up at this annual event, just about everyone joined in with anecdotes about Plast; about Slavko's youthful pranks with his old buddy, Severin "Erko" Palydowycz, during the "good old days" about Slavko's daring flying escapades at sea scouting camps; and the continuous string of projects that he'd get us involved in to help Plast, the Bobrivka camp in Connecticut, the Ukrainian community and, ultimately, his goal of a free Ukraine.

One of the sad ironies of Slavko's untimely death is that he never got to experience the joy and pride that we all felt on that glorious day of Ukraine's declaration of independence on August 24, 1991. Slavko never realized his dream of sailing the Black Sea.

A tennis tournament may seem like an inadequate way to commemorate the importance of his accomplishments, but it serves to remind us that, aside from the fun and games, there is still work to be done in fulfillment of Slavko's goals and aspirations.

Oleh Kolodiy pulled out a 1965 issue of Yunak, the Plast youth magazine, which had an article about Slavko's accomplishments, and we recalled why he was named "Vykhor" by his Chornomortsi brothers. Slavko was a whirlwind, a dynamo of activity, who swept everyone into his vortex. Unlike a tornado that leaves behind wreckage and chaos, Slavko's energy cleared the way



Slavko Luchkan (left) with New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller at Plast Sea-Scouting/Aviation Camp at Indian Lake in upstate New York in July 1965.

for the rest of us to fruitfully use our talents and energy on useful projects that were of value to the Ukrainian community. That's what leadership is all about: a combination of inspiration, energy, vision and a firm belief in ideals directed towards noble purposes.

Slavko was so involved with and committed to Plast and the Ukrainian community that we hardly knew he had a profession, much less a job. It seemed that Plast encompassed his entire being. His trademark was an expandable file crammed with papers defining various projects, housed in an extra large attaché case that he carried with him everywhere, even at summer camps, in the midst of our sports activities.

And yet, during the most active years that we knew him, from 1962 to 1973, he worked as an aeronautical engineer for United Technologies, ultimately ending up on the Apollo space program. Here, he had an experience that demonstrated, in stark realistic terms, the nature of his character. He didn't talk much about his job then, and we didn't pry. Most of us were still enjoying the freedom of college, and didn't want to think or talk about work.

We didn't know, until recently, that he had been assigned to a secret project involved with the testing and quality control of various components of the Apollo rocket that was destined to take our astronauts to the moon in 1969. One of his inspections suggested a major flaw, and he demanded further testing before he was going to certify the launch. This delayed the planned launch by several weeks – and upset the hierarchy – but he wouldn't budge. The tests were conducted, confirming a potentially fatal design flaw, and Slavko went from being a pariah to hero. He was tough and persistent, and almost always right. He had the "right stuff."

Slavko was a perfectionist, not in a pedantic or petty manner, but in demanding excellence when it counted. The people around him responded because they respected him, his goals and his accomplishments. He delivered when others failed, despite obstacles and disappointments, and he compensated for our weaknesses.

Although Vykhor was a pragmatist, he also had his big dream: to recreate Plast and Chornomortsi in Ukraine and organize the first canoe trip down the Dnister River to the Black Sea, just as his hero, Roman Shukhevych, also a Chornomoret, had done in the late 1920s. Alas, Vykhor didn't get to realize his dream, but his friends made sure it happened in 1995, when Nestor Kolcio and Mr. Kolodiy joined with Oles Kryskiv, a newly "christened" Chornomoret from Ukraine, to reignite the Plast kurin that had served as the train-



Chornomortsi at the Bobrivka Plast camp in 1962: (from left) Zenon Stakhiv, Lesyk Havryliuk, Roman Kupchinsky, Andrij Vytvytsky and Slavko Luchkan.

ing ground for so many of the leaders of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). Vykhor's spirit had, at last, joined that of Hamalia on the Black Sea.

Had he lived 50 years earlier, there's no doubt that Vykhor would have been standing at Taras Chuprynyk's (Shukhevych's pseudonym) side, as did more than 20 other Chornomortsi. We all recognized Slavko's dedication to the cause, and how deeply he felt about Ukraine; we knew that he would respond to the call of duty and sacrifice, if needed.

He served his adopted country as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and right after completing his tour of duty in 1961, he resumed his Plast career and quickly rose up through the ranks to be elected as the U.S. head of Plast in 1965. Like that elu-

sive "Scarlet Pimpernel," he was "here, there and everywhere," a perpetual whirlwind of activity, running around the country performing worthy deeds.

Typically, he would show up at the Plast headquarters in New York City on Friday evenings, driving straight from work in Stratford, Conn., bounding out of his sporty little MG, to round us up and involve us in his next project. It seemed as if every other weekend we were travelling about the East Coast, working, demonstrating, organizing or preparing for the next event. He pushed us so much it seemed that we'd never have any fun. Little did we realize then that this was his form of enjoyment.

He showed up one evening in September 1963 with 10 nice new uni-

(Continued on page 14)

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Hahilky performed at Mississauga center

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – A traditional Ukrainian song-and-dance ritual, the springtime “hayivky” or “hahilky,” may become an annual part of the recently completed Mississauga Living Arts Center. The Levada Women’s Choir, along with the Mississauga Symphony and the City of Mississauga came together on April 4 to present an afternoon of entertainment that included orchestral renditions of such pieces as “Yahil, Yahilochka.”

Approximately 300 people filled the facility’s entrance hall, spilling over onto the stairways and balconies. Surrounded by vendors that offered pysanky, artwork, books, tapes and CDs.

An 11-piece orchestra opened the show with a medley of hayivky. Performing these elements of folklore was a new experience for some of the musicians. “It’s quite different actually. The phrasing of the music is different. Lots of three-bar phrasing as opposed to the four-bar we have in classical music,” said flautist Elizabeth Rutter.

Though Ms. Rutter is not of a Ukrainian background, she used to play for the Homin Choir in St. Catharines, Ontario, when she was in high school.

Violinist Andrey Perfecky was happy to be part of the festivities. “It’s a worthwhile event that should happen every year,” he voted.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion

was on hand. “It’s a pleasure to be here to welcome you to your community arts center. My dream was for the various communities making up Mississauga to have a place to showcase their traditions,” she said and added that she enjoys the yearly Ukrainian Yarmarok at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Mississauga.

Afterwards, members of the Levada choir sang and danced a set of traditional numbers. Mayor McCallion joined in on one dance, and when the performers struck up “Hrai Zhuchku, Hrai Nebozhe,” many children from the audience were drawn in. The choir members formed a bridge with their arms and the youngsters walked over them from one end of the bridge to the other.

Pysanka writer Lesia George and her husband Noel set up a table to show passers-by some of the steps of pysankamaking. Mr. George said he learned the art of making pysanky about 10 years ago in order to woo Lesia. “When I first started courting her around Easter, I learned so I could spend more time with her,” he said.

The event was sponsored by Wastecorp, a manufacturer of pollution-control equipment for municipal and industrial applications.

Dr. Oksana Sawiak, a member of the board of directors of the Mississauga Symphony, principal organizer of the event, said she hopes the event can become an annual affair at the Living Arts Center, which will require a sponsor.

Chornomortsi remember...

(Continued from page 13)

forms, and proclaimed that he had registered us in the USCAK volleyball tournament to be held the following week at Soyuzivka. We took last place in that tournament, but that was to be the beginning of a very long and fruitful sports tradition among the Chornomortsi. We later went on to win that tournament five years in a row, and numerous others, too.

In one bold move, Slavko had created our sports tradition, so maybe the tennis tournament is, in some small way, a fitting tribute to Slavko, a tempestuous athlete and fierce competitor who never understood the meaning of the word “quit.”

But most remember him as a leader and mentor, our conscience and inspiration. With those unique attributes there’s no doubt that, in a prior era, he would have been remembered as a national hero.

It’s ironic that so many of us knew Slavko for a longer time than his family. Regrettably, they didn’t get much of a chance to share his time as a father, or to appreciate his talents and many accomplishments as a community leader. His many friends were indeed fortunate to



Winners of the 1998 Luchkan Memorial Tennis Tournament: Andrew Hadzewycz (left) and Steve Sosiak.

share a decade of intense activity, creativity and personal fulfillment with a very special and unique person. He made us all better human beings as he set new standards for us and Plast. As long as we’re able to move, we’ll play tennis, remember Slavko and continue his work.

When that fails, we’ve trained some younger Chornomortsi in Ukraine to carry on his legacy.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

BOOK NOTES

Two personal accounts of experiences during world upheavals

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The following two books are personal accounts of individual lives as they were directly affected by the great upheavals of the time – collectivization and the Stalin purges of the 1930s, and wartime life and Nazi labor camps during World War II.

They have in common the uprootedness of existence characteristic of people forced to leave or flee their native land during the war years. As such, the works may be seen in the general context of the fate of many post-World War II refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine.

Undoubtedly all refugees have a story of their own. Each account is compelling; each is painful and moving to read. Each is a chronicle of a life in conditions that break the body and spirit – of losses suffered, hardships endured and the struggle to survive.

The writing of such accounts is not easy. In both works the seminal experience stems from traumas suffered in early childhood – the cutting short of the idyll of childhood and a loving home, the loss of parents. For Mrs. Demczyna this occurs as she is taken as a forced laborer to

Germany; for Mrs. Dallas, as she witnesses the beginnings of collectivization that ultimately claim the lives of her parents.

For Mrs. Demczyna there is the need to keep the vow taken as a young girl in the labor camp that whoever should survive that hell would tell the world, as well as to document the life and times for her immediate family.

For Mrs. Dallas there is the reluctance to remember the past because of the pain, sorrow and despair associated with her youth, including such traumatic incidents as sexual abuse. Yet, writing is a means of coming to terms with the past. In the process she salvages “some good memories, positive experiences,” despite all the pain, turmoil and instability that formed a large part of her life.

Ultimately, for both authors writing these accounts is a means of exposing the injustice and brutality suffered by the Ukrainian people under the Soviet and Nazi regimes. The publication of these memoirs in English makes them accessible to a larger audience.

Both works are dedicated to the authors' families.

One Woman: Five Lives; Five Countries, Eugenia Sakevich Dallas. Aurora, Colo.: The National Writers Press, 1998.

The work is a compelling account of the life of Eugenia Sakevich Dallas, whose life's journey takes her from her village of Kamiana Balka in southern Ukraine, through the devastating Stalin purges of the 1930s and Nazi Germany labor camps, then on to the glittering fashion runways of Italy, and finally to a settled life in Scotland and the United States.

The work is a straightforward, chronological account of the author's experiences and adaptation to life in the various countries where “fate or luck” took her.

The account starts with the traumatic events and losses the author suffered as a child, age 5 or 6, as a result of the beginning of collectivization in Ukraine, going on to a life of repeated moving, hard labor and the constant struggle to merely survive – ultimately on her own.

With the German invasion of the USSR in June 1941, the author finds herself in Austria as a forced laborer in a munitions plant in Graz. Emotionally and physically drained, and wanting “nothing more than sleep,” she, like the others, mostly teenagers, in the camp, felt nothing but apathy when exposed to Allied bombing, “too numb to feel fear or excitement ...” thinking that if a bomb would hit it would be for the better.

At war's end, the author, with no possessions other than “the papers documenting (her) parents' arrest, the clothes she was wearing ... and her cross,” heads for Italy.

In Italy the overwhelming impression is the “great sense of release, of freedom, to be out of the area of Soviet control.” At the age of 20, the author is launched on a career as a high fashion model in Milan, which helps her develop a sense of self-assurance and worth. This period, however, is marked by a preoccupation with lack of legal status in the country; to ease her anxiety she takes on a new name and identity.

At the age of 24 the author emigrates to the United States and experiences “life as a free woman.” She lives and works as a model in New York, where she enjoys the artistic and intellectual life of the city, and subsequently in Los Angeles and Dallas. The promise of the fulfillment of marriage eludes her as her second husband turns out to be an alcoholic and their son's life becomes dominated by drugs. She experi-



ences illness, surgery and recovery accompanied by a divorce at age 31.

The fifth country, referred to in the chapter titled “Scotland and life as a pampered wife, 1973-1982,” represents a kind of stepping back into the past of a charmed tranquil way of living and an active social life in a grand manner – the result of the author's marriage to Stewart Dallas, a Scottish solicitor from Glasgow, whom she met in Palma de Mallorca and married on April 5, 1973, in Beverly Hills. This is the most stable and personally fulfilling period of the author's life, which lasted until her husband's illness and death in 1993.

As a result of her husband's illness, the couple moves to Hollywood Hills and subsequently to Los Angeles. Upon her husband's death, Mrs. Dallas becomes increasingly more involved with Ukrainian émigré organizations (e.g., the Ukrainian Cultural Center) in Los Angeles and embarks on working for Ukrainian causes and giving aid to Ukraine.

The work concludes with an “Afterthought” and an informative section titled “Notes on Ukraine,” which gives an overview of Ukrainian history, including most recent developments. The book also has been published in Ukraine.

One Woman: Five Lives; Five Countries may be ordered by sending a check or money order to: Eugenia Dallas, 6702 Hillpark Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068. The cost: \$16.95 plus \$2.25 for shipping.

From East to West, Antonina Demczyna. Belleville, Ontario: Essence Publishing, 1996.

In the general context of the German occupation of the Soviet Union, the author brings to the fore her own harsh treatment during the years spent in forced labor in Nazi Germany during World War II.

The idyllic life enjoyed in the town of Maloarchangelsk is upset in October 1941, with the arrival of German troops. By June of 1942 Antonina, then not quite 16, along with countless others, is transported by freight car to a wartime factory in Leipzig, Germany.

The book is a wrenching account of loss of parents and homeland.

The author gives graphic descriptions of hardships endured and the unbearable conditions in the factory and its barracks; along with a vivid portrayal of the sadistic overseer and an alcoholic commandant. In the midst of such brutal existence, resourcefulness becomes a way of life, and of survival, for the young girls at the Tura factory.

However, even in this hell there are bright spots: while in Leipzig, Antonina meets and marries Stefan Demczyna. At war's end the couple, with a set of twins, make their way to England whence they are able to emigrate to Canada.

In the words of the author the forced laborers “... suffered shock, emotional and physical pain, brutality and near starvation.”

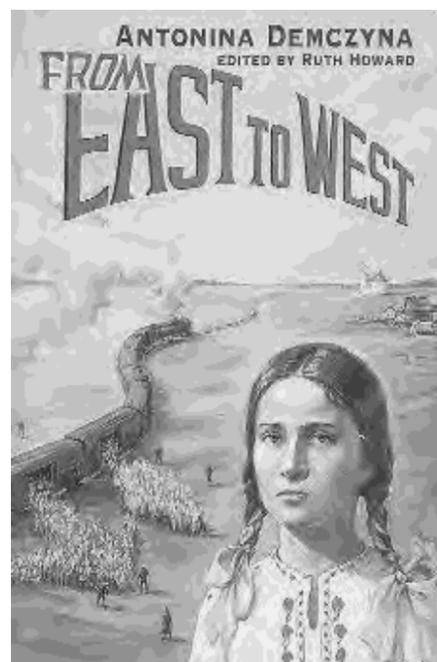
“But I can only tell my story, and a little part of what happened to those I knew in the labor camps,” Mrs. Demczyna notes.

In writing the author fulfilled the vow made as a young girl in the labor camp that whoever should survive that hell would tell the world.

In relating her experience, she says she hoped “... to portray [her] determination of retaining self-esteem, even if it had to be hidden at times. Most of all, I wanted to characterize the strength of the human spirit and the will to survive.”

In reflecting on the past, the author notes that “if my years of writing reaches out and touches other persons in some way, then I can add with joy, ‘My cup runneth over!’”

The book may be ordered from:



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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

organization Zeleni Svit (Green World) stated May 11 that the construction projects for additional reactors at Khmelnytskyi and Rivne atomic energy stations are illegitimate. Zeleni Svit claims it has identified contradictions and irregularities between the project and the laws on investment activity, nuclear energy usage and radiation safety, and environmental safety. The organization plans to hold public hearings addressing the issue of construction and "aims to try to stop this nuclear scam through legislation." (Eastern Economist)

Tatars march to demand more rights

SYMFEROPOL – Crimean Tatars on May 6 began a march on the Crimean capital to demand more rights for their ethnic minority, the Associated Press reported. Some 170 people set out from Kerch to Symferopol to cover the 190-kilometer route. Tatars from six other towns are expected to leave for the capital on foot over the next several days and to convene there on May 18 to mark the 55th anniversary of the deportation of Crimean Tatars to Central Asia. After the demonstration, the Tatars are planning to set up a tent camp in front of Crimea's government and Parliament headquarters and begin negotiations with the authorities. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Robotics for Chernobyl plant

PRYPIAT – The Chernobyl atomic energy station has just received the unique Pioneer remote-controlled diagnostic system, produced by the American Robotics consortium, announced the Chernobyl plant's information department on May 7. The system will operate inside the sarcophagus to study the condition of the ruined fourth energy block and characteristics of the remaining nuclear fuel, as well as investigate areas with very high radiation levels. (Eastern Economist)

Stars threaten strike over youth TV

KYIV – Thirty Ukrainian pop stars appealed to President Leonid Kuchma, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Tkachenko, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and the president of the National Broadcasting Company to put back on the air the Youth TV Channel, belonging to the Zoloti Vorota broadcasting company, shown on UT-2 channel. If their request is not fulfilled, the pop-stars Iryna Bilyk, Ani Lorak, Pavlo Zibrov, Taisia Povalii, Oleksander Ponomariov, Kateryna Buzhynska and Karina Plai will not permit their works to be shown on the National Broadcasting Company for the week of May 15-24. (Eastern Economist)

Germany: no money until debt repaid

KYIV – Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber said in Kyiv on May 5 that Germany will not lend Ukraine any more money until it repays a German loan for the construction of a chemical plant, Interfax reported. Germany has extended a credit line for Ukrainian industry, including a loan of 22 million DM (\$12 million U.S.) for the Oriana chemical plant in Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. Prime Minister Valerii

Pustovoitenko assured Mr. Stoiber that Ukraine will repay the debt by resorting to "social welfare funds," the agency reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Inflation exceeds 2 percent

KYIV – Ukraine's monthly inflation rate reached 2.3 percent in April, up from 1 percent in March and February, the Associated Press reported on May 4, citing the State Statistics Committee. The hike was triggered by the government's April resolution increasing the price of electricity and gas, in compliance with requirements set by the International Monetary Fund. Ukraine's planned inflation rate in 1999 is 19 percent, but many analysts see this figure as overly optimistic, arguing that the government is likely to print money to pay off wage and pension arrears before the October 31 presidential elections. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Top domestic oligarchs are listed

KYIV – The Politics Institute, headed by Mykola Tomenko, on April 7 presented a list of the five most influential political oligarchs in Ukraine. They are: Ihor Bakai, president of NaftoGaz Ukrainy; Oleksander Volkov, national deputy and vice-chair of the Presidential Coordination Council; Viktor Pinchuk, national deputy and ex-president of InterPipe investment group; Vadym Rabinovich, president of the National Jewish Congress; and Hryhorii Surkis, national deputy and honorary president of the Dynamo Kyiv Football Club. The five were selected according to control or influence on at least one deputies' group, faction, political party or public organization, as well as control or influence on at least one national TV or radio broadcasting channel or publication, sector of the economy or national enterprise. (Eastern Economist)

Tractors to be leased out to farmers

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers has approved a proposal by the Industrial Policy Ministry to manufacture 1,000 HTZ-170 tractors in 1999, worth 140 million hrv, at the Kharkiv Tractor Plant and supply them on leasing terms to domestic farmers. In line with the program, the KTP is to provide technical servicing of the tractors. The 140 million hrv are to be paid to the State Leasing Fund from depreciation payments earmarked by the budget to buy new farming equipment. The government also ordered the Finance Ministry to secure the servicing and repayment of a German credit received against governmental guarantees to buy engines and parts for HTZ-170 tractors under a contract between the KTP and German company Deutz AG. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian climbers on Everest

KYIV – A team of three climbers, including Vladislav Terziul, and Vasyly Kopytko of Odesa, and Volodymyr Horbach of Kyiv, reached the top of Mount Everest on May 8 and planted the Ukrainian national flag. They are part of a group of climbers currently attempting to climb the mountain as part of the first Ukrainian national expedition to Mount Everest. The three are currently engaged in their descent. (Eastern Economist)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Goys honored on 50th anniversary

by Mary E. Pressey

NEW YORK – Family and friends gathered on March 6 at the Ukrainian Institute of America to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of Peter and Lesia Goy, long-standing activists in the fields of education, culture and organizational activities.

Hosting the special event were the Goys' children, Marika and George, who spared nothing in effort, time and expense to make the celebration a treasured and joyous occasion. In an enchanting setting of beautiful rose arrangements, the anniversary couple greeted their guests as music from a lively Ukrainian four-piece band welcomed all.

Toasting the couple and blessing them with good health, well-being and thankfulness was their son, Dr. George Goy, following which the guests wholeheartedly obliged with a hearty "Mnohaya Lita."

Greeting the couple as the first speaker was Prof. Myroslav Labunka, the former rector of the Ukrainian Free University (UFU) in Munich and a personal friend of Prof. and Mrs. Goy, who spoke eloquently of the couple's contribution to Ukrainian society and the Ukrainian Free University. Prof. Labunka read a greeting from Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, current rector of the UFU, who praised Prof. Goy for his outstanding contributions to the UFU and praised his efforts as head of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation in New York, as well as his dedication to community service. In recognition for his outstanding contribution, Prof. Goy was awarded a special medal by the members of the UFU. While presenting the medal, Prof. Labunka noted that Mrs. Goy also deserved immense credit for Prof. Goy's successes and his accomplishments.

On behalf of the foundation, of which Prof. Goy is past president, Prof. Volodymyr Stojko, delivered a warm greeting to the couple and expressed his gratitude to Prof. Goy's long-standing service to the foundation, which has

existed for 25 years. Prof. Stojko read greetings from the Michnovsky Ukrainian Student Association which has branches throughout Western Europe and Australia. Others who greeted the couple included Oksana Lutsky from the Ukrainian Free University Foundation, and the Rev. Lawrenti Lawryniuk of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church of New York.

Dozens of congratulatory letters and telegrams from well-wishers from North America and Europe were read by Marika Senkowich, daughter-in-law of Anastazia Senkowich, Mrs. Goy's sister. Among the greetings were blessings conveyed from Bishop Basil Losten of Stamford, Conn., Bishop Efreim Kryvey of Brazil and the Rev. William Pryjma of Lourdes, France. Family greetings from Ukraine were exceptionally warm and poignant. Greetings were sent by President Bill Clinton, Sens. Charles Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Judge Bohdan Futey, as well as by New York Gov. George Pataki. There were numerous greetings from professors and deans of various universities.

The couple met and married at the Munich Frieman displaced persons camp, where they lived after the war for five years. Prof. Goy, who was born in Ukraine, arrived at the camp at the age of 19 and immediately enrolled at the Ukrainian Free University where he obtained his master's degree and Ph.D. in history. Mrs. Goy (nee Stanchuk), born in the Lemko region in Poland, was a high school teacher. The couple worked tirelessly in Ukrainian youth organizations, specifically SUM and Plast.

In July 1949 Prof. and Mrs. Goy sailed for America, first settling in Chicago, where Prof. Goy briefly continued his education in economics at the Chicago University. Later, in New York City, Prof. Goy obtained his master's degree in library science at Columbia University.

In 1959 Prof. Goy became a librarian at the City University of New York, where he was in charge of the Slavic American heritage courses. In the interim, through Plast, he had established a travel group called "Stezhkama Batkiv po Evropi" and devoted 11 years to traveling with students to many European



Lesia and Dr. Peter Goy.

cities to acquaint them with their Ukrainian heritage in Europe. For this undertaking and dedication Prof. Goy was awarded Plast's St. George Medal in Gold in New York in 1994.

In 1992 Prof. Goy established a library and archives of the Ukrainian diaspora at Lviv's Ivan Franko University.

Aside from teaching, Prof. Goy published several books. He was instrumental in the preparation for publication of the English-Spanish Technical Dictionary of Librarianship, and is the author of the Biographical Dictionary of Libraries in the field of Slavic and East European Studies published in Chicago in 1967 by the American Library Association. Prof. Goy published "Slavs in America," and was instrumental in the preparation of the English-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-

English Dictionary published in 1984.

His doctoral thesis on diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Moscow during the Bohdan Khmelnytsky period, was published in Lviv in 1996.

Mrs. Goy is a long-standing member of UNA Branch 194, of which she is secretary, as well as the secretary of the New York District Committee of the UNA. She is the past president of both Branch 1 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the New York Regional Council of the UNWLA. Today she is actively involved as New York vice-president of the Regional Council.

Mrs. Goy also served as college assistant at the City College of New York for 25 years and for many years taught school on Saturdays at the Self Reliance School of Ukrainian Studies.

Chicago exhibit marks Chornobyl anniversary



CHICAGO – Gov. George H. Ryan sponsored an exhibit at the James R. Thompson Center to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine. Over 100,000 people visit the center weekly. Seen above (from left) are: Consul Ludmyla M. Protasova of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago, Kalina Drohomyrecka, Victor Kucherenko, Nadia Chmilenko, Zinovi Turkalo, Olena Dzhelmach and Pat Michalski, assistant to the governor for ethnic affairs.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Go look outside.
It's reigning again. Yup, reigning.

Thanks in large part to the dizzying deals they made at the NHL's trading deadline, the Detroit Red Wings are the odds-on favorites to become the franchise to win three consecutive Stanley Cups since the New York Islanders accomplished that feat in the early 1980s.

Of course, the Wings should face plenty of competition – particularly from within their own conference. The Dallas Stars and the Colorado Avalanche are ranked very high as this year's Cup contenders. Here's the skinny on this season's 16 playoff qualifiers, listed in order of overall strengths. (Teams marked with an asterisk were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs.)

No. 1 – Detroit Red Wings

Primary strength is depth. No team has four lines that can score and grind like these guys. As long as netminder Chris Osgood does his job, as he did last spring, the rejuvenated Wings with Chris Chelios, Wendel Clark and company should win another Stanley Cup.

No. 2 – Dallas Stars

The league's premier defensive squad is led by the league's best six-man blueline unit, which can also generate some offense. Extremely disciplined, effective special teams, these Stars are best suited to winning low-scoring games. That's playoff hockey! Ukrainian defenseman Richard Matvichuk back from knee injuries. Fellow countryman Brad Lukowich on playoff roster. Tony Hrkac is a spare forward who can make the power play unit go.

* No. 3 – New Jersey Devils

The Devils' attack, much improved under coach Robbie Ftorek, is the most diverse in league – 13 players scored in double digits. New Jersey thrives playing on the road (No. 1 in the league). Foot speed is a concern on a veteran defense that is under the gun more with team's more open offense. Ukes Kenny Daneyko and Dave Andreychuk are definitely main men.

No. 4 – Colorado Avalanche

The Avs have unrivaled pure offense and skill, led by Peter Forsberg, Joe Sakic and Theo Fleury. Patrick Roy tends the nets. If they're on all cylinders, they can take their game to the next level, but they are vulnerable to defensive breakdowns.

No. 5 – Buffalo Sabres

Though he struggled at times in the second half and ran into injury problems, the Dominik Hasek factor can never be discounted. He's special and is capable of winning a series or two by himself. Realistically speaking, all signs point to this team not being on the right track and lacking in offensive firepower. Defenseman Alexei Zhitnik came on strong in last month.

No. 6 – Toronto Maple Leafs

Primary strengths are offense and goaltending. Leafs had the top attack in league in regular season. Numbers suggest the Leafs won't succeed in the playoffs, but there's an indefinable quality to this team that suggests they may be a team of destiny this season.

* No. 7 – Phoenix Coyotes

The Coyotes have the personnel to

(Continued on page 19)



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Established 1933

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AUTHORIZED AGENTS

Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 18)

play a bruising, physical game. When healthy and rested, their defense is skilled and mobile. Netminder Nikolai (he's Russian) Khabibulin is capable of playoff heroics. Not an easy team to play against. Captain Coyote Keith Tkachuk leads this team in every sense of the word. Youngster Oleg Tverdovsky a bit inconsistent on the backline with less production.

* No. 8 – Ottawa Senators

The Sens are well coached and play a patient trapping system that frustrates their foes. Boast excellent team speed and their transition is to be feared. Weakness: almost zero playoff experience, which means these guys may have to lose before they learn how to win.

No. 9 – Boston Bruins

Coach Pat Burns knows what it takes to win in the playoffs and has a grinding defensive team (No. 2 overall) anchored by stellar netminder "Lord" Byron Dafoe. Best penalty killing in league. Capable of winning two rounds, but lack the horses to go much further.

No. 10 – Pittsburgh Penguins

In Jaromir Jagr, the Penguins have most dominant player in the game and he's aptly supported by anonymous yet productive supporting cast. Coach Kevin Constantine gets more out of this team than one would expect. Jagr getting hurt as playoffs began not a good omen. Uke Greg Andrusak made dramatic return to Pittsburgh late in season after playing a while in Europe.

* No. 11 – Philadelphia Flyers

Even without injured superstar and team captain Eric Lindros, the Flyers have a solid offense led by John LeClair, Mark Recchi and Rod Brind'Amour. The team's attitude was Cup final or bust, but Lindros' injury and their defensive/goaltending inadequacies shifted the Flyers into the extreme darkhorse category.

No. 12 – St. Louis Blues

Al MacInnis, likely to win the Norris (top defenseman) Trophy, and Chris Pronger, give St. Louis a dynamic blue-line duo that set the tone for the team that gave up the fewest shots on goal in the league. Goals are difficult to come by. Goalie Grant Fuhr was on and off all of 1998-1999. Good coaching, but strong shortage of guns on offense.

* No. 13 – San Jose Sharks

The Sharks had the fifth-best goals against average, second best in the West. Two good goaltenders and Vincent Damphousse's arrival jump-started a flat offense. Terrific speed. As Boston may be the team to avoid in the East, so San Jose is the equivalent out West.

* No. 14 – Carolina Hurricanes

Diminutive goaltender Arturs Irbe has a playoff track record and captain Keith Primeau is capable of elevating his play to a high level. Unfortunately, Carolina had the league's worst power play and lowest production from its defense, which was ravaged by injuries late in the season. Lucky to have made the playoffs, period.

* No. 15 – Anaheim Mighty Ducks

Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya, in that order, are a clear and present danger every time they skate out on the ice. Guy Hebert's .924 save percentage was impressive. However, team defense is suspect and no team relies as heavily on two players as the Ducks do with the

forementioned combo. They accounted for 40 percent of team's goals. Will not go far.

* No. 16 – Edmonton Oilers

On a lot of nights this past regular season Edmonton had a terrific team, with speed and an ornery, abrasive attitude teams hated to match up against. But not often enough. Goaltending, at best, is a question mark, as newcomer Tommy Salo proved inconsistent. No chance against Dallas in first round.

FINAL UKRAINIAN TRANSACTIONS (player movements and injuries):

BOSTON – Dimitri Khristich, LW, shoulder separation, day-to-day.

CALGARY – Lee Sorochan, D, acquired in trade with N.Y. Rangers; Sorochan assigned to St. John (AHL), recalled and returned.

CAROLINA – Steve Halko, D, recalled from New Haven (AHL); Curtis Leschyshyn, D, strained groin, day-to-day; Halko returned to New Haven.

CHICAGO – Mike Maneluk, RW, released.

COLORADO – Wade Belak, D, traded to Calgary in Theo Fleury deal; Belak assigned to St. John (AHL), recalled and reassigned to St. John after end of regular NHL season.

DALLAS – Brad Lukowich, D, recalled from Michigan (IHL); Richard Matvichuk, D, groin strain and MCL strain, late April; Lukowich returned to Michigan and later recalled.

DETROIT – Joey Kocur, RW, lower abdominal muscle strain, day-to-day.

FLORIDA – Peter Ratchuk, D, assigned to New Haven (AHL).

LOS ANGELES – Acquired Dave Babych, D, from Philadelphia in trade.

N.Y. RANGERS – Mike Maneluk, RW, claimed off waivers from Chicago; Wayne Gretzky, C, neck disk protrusion, late March; Gretzky announced his retirement from hockey.

PITTSBURGH – Greg Andrusak, D, signed to contract and assigned to Houston (IHL); Andrusak recalled from Houston.

WASHINGTON – Peter Bondra, RW, broken right hand, out for season; Steve Konowalchuk, LW, concussion, out for

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The theme for the evening program is

“HUMAN RIGHTS”

Guest speakers:

H.E. Nina Kavalska, Ambassador of Ukraine to Switzerland
“*Human Rights Are Women's Rights*”

Dr. Zoreslava Shkiryak-Nyzhnyk from Ukraine
“*Health: One of the Fundamental Human Rights*”

Stephen B. Nix, Esquire
“*Human Rights Pursuant to the Ukrainian Constitution*”

Dr. Julian Kulas
“*Promoting and Defending Human Rights of American Citizens*”

Moderator **Iryna Kurowyckyj**

Place: Westin O'Hare Hotel, 6100 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill 60018

Date: Friday, May 28, 1999 Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 18

DETROIT: The School of Business Administration at Wayne State University is holding a symposium on Eastern European business titled “Eastern Europe at the Dawn of the New Millennium: Political, Economic and Social Transformation Experiences.” The symposium will be hosted by the Center for International Business Studies in conjunction with the Detroit Regional Chamber's International World Trade Week program. It will be held in the Adamany Library on the main campus of Wayne State University at 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For additional information or to RSVP, contact Prof. Atilla Yaprak or Irene Mokra, (313) 577-4842

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago is holding an exhibit titled “The Woman as Guardian of Ukrainian Culture,” to run concurrently during the 25th Ukrainian National Women's League of America Convention to be held in Chicago. The exhibit will be opened by Ludmila Protasova, acting consul general of Ukraine, at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit will run through June 25. For more information call the museum, (312) 421-8020.

Friday, May 21

NEW YORK: The Mayana Gallery, in association with M. James Fine Art invites the public to an exhibition of recent paintings, multi-media works and sculpture by an international group of award-winning artists, among them Chinese artists Lee Ching Man and Li Wai On, American artists Amy Kasai and Dixie Salazar, and Ukrainian Brazilian sculptor Oxana Narozniak. The exhibit opens with a reception on May 21 at 6:30-9 p.m. The exhibit will be on view through June 2. Currently, on view at the gallery, are works by watercolor master Dong Kingman and his student Lauren Barnes. For further information call the gallery, (212) 777-8144 or (908) 725-5322. The gallery is located at 136 Second Ave., fourth floor.

Saturday, May 22

JOHNSON CITY, N.Y.: The Lysenko Choral Ensemble of Toronto, under the direction of Alla Shklar, will make its American debut performance at St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Church singing the divine liturgy of St. John Chrysostom as composed by Valerij Kikta. The new liturgy, which premiered in Edmonton in 1994, weaves traditional Ukrainian liturgical music with unique and contemporary harmony. Mr. Kikta, a former student of Stanislav Liudkevych and Semen Bohatyrov, is best known in North America for his oratorio “Sacred Dnipro,” which was performed in 1996 by the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association at Massey Hall in Toronto. The special liturgy begins at 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 23

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian National Association District Committee of New York is holding a presentation titled “The Ukrainian Press in the U.S.: Do We Need It?” by Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief, The Ukrainian Weekly. The talk will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave., at 1:30 p.m.

NEW YORK: Marta Sawycky, director of Music and Me, will present the interactive children's story “Ripka” (Turnip) at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 2-5 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Donation: \$15 per family, non-members; \$10 per family, members. RSVP to the institute by May 20 by calling (212) 288-8660.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The divine liturgy of St. John Chrysostom by contemporary Ukrainian composer Valerij Kikta

will be heard at a special hierachal divine liturgy to be concelebrated by Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Bishop Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at 10 a.m. The liturgy will be sung by the Lysenko Choral Ensemble of Toronto under the direction of Alla Shklar.

NEWARK, N.J.: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 86 invites the public to the exhibition and sale of bas-relief works in wood by artist Zenon Holubec, which will take place at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, Sanford Avenue and Ivy Street, at 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, May 23

LAKE SAN MARCOS, Calif.: Concert pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the Leontovych String Quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, violin; Yuri Kharenko, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello — will perform in the Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society concert series in a program of works by Weber, Brahms and Franck. The performance will be held at the Lake San Marcos Recreation Lodge, 1105 La Bonita Drive, at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute is holding a lecture titled “The Nobility: The Forgotten Class of Ukrainian Society,” by assistant librarian Roman Velitchko. The lecture will be held at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 7-9 p.m. Fee: \$10. For more information call (416) 923-3318.

Friday, May 28

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute and the Canadian Lemko Association invite the public to an exhibition of paintings by artist Pavlo Lopata titled “Farewell Exhibition: Toronto, Canada — Gorlice, Poland.” On the occasion of the exhibition, 58 paintings on the theme of churches of Lemkivschyna from the private collection of the Ivan Popiel family are being donated to the Archival Museum of the Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Przemysl (Peremyshl)-Nowy Sanez in Gorlice, Poland. The exhibit opens May 28 at St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 7 p.m., with guest speaker the Rev. Bohdan Sencio. Admission: \$5. For additional information call Mr. Lopata, (416) 767-6111.

Sunday, May 30

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: The documentary film “Stolen Years,” which focuses on Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's reign of terror through the eyes of 11 purge victims, will be aired in the Greater Rochester area on PBS affiliate WXXI at 11 p.m. It was under Stalin that an estimated 20 million people perished in a series of purges, arrests, executions, artificial famines and deportations to desolate regions and forced labor camps. The film is a co-production of The Blackwell Corp. and The Evans-McCan Group. Inquiries may be addressed to WXXI TV programming director, (716) 258-0244.

ONGOING

CHICAGO: The installation of mixed media paintings, quotations and prayers by painter Elena Diadenko titled “From the Outside Looking In,” is on view at Columbia College, Hokinhall, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The exhibit, which opened May 14, will be on view through May 30. A recent immigrant from Ukraine, Ms. Diadenko questions why people who consider themselves good, kind and religious have so much trouble getting along with other people who consider themselves good, kind and religious in the U.S.

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

• Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Listings are published only once (please indicate desired date of publication) and appear at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax (973) 644-9510.